

Mr. Prittie has and I recognize him as the parliamentary authority in this field. My concern is that of a layman; his is, by now, almost that of a professional in this field.

Mr. PRITTIE: On the question of laws, only one of the 50 states still has a law on this subject. It is Massachusetts; the law is the same as in Canada and has the same lack of enforcement as in Canada. Connecticut had one until last year, which did not prohibit the sale or the giving of birth control information, but the using of such information. This was struck out by the supreme court last summer. Britain has no law and I forget if it ever did have. France has a law similar to ours which they brought in in 1920. The idea was to encourage more population because of the loss of manpower in the first world war. It has had no appreciable effect. France has a fairly low birth rate and the law was under discussion in the recent presidential campaign. Sweden formerly had a law which was made effective in 1937. I do not think New Zealand has. I do not know about other countries but the law exists in France as in Canada and is pretty well disregarded. It is under study by a government commission now. One state has such a law.

Mr. ALLMAND: Have there been any sociological studies of the effect of the laws or lack of laws, comparative studies?

Mr. PRITTIE: I am sure there are many which could be obtained. Among the clippings I have here I will refer to one. There was a lady, Colette Beaudet-Carisse of Montreal, working for a doctorate in sociology in Montreal and she presented her thesis in 1964 and received her doctorate. She simply pointed out that regardless of laws the birth rate in Quebec, for example, was declining. She showed over the years how it was following the national average, it was declining. In fact the families she was studying were based upon 84 Roman Catholic wives in Montreal. This was her study group and they all practised some sort of family planning; but there are many other studies. The literature is available. I do not know what they are.

Mr. BRAND: I must point out, Mr. Chairman, that there have been several different attitudes towards this problem in Sweden, for example, as mentioned. The unmarried mother is not stigmatized in any way. This is an accepted form of life there, and they are in fact subsidized by the state in the bringing up of these children, which is a considerably different problem from what we run into here. And if we go to Puerto Rico where they do a lot of original studies on the pill, the famous pill, as you recall there was almost a revolution among the people in Puerto Rico when the Archbishop in that district was talking against birth control, the population which I understand is about 95 per cent Roman Catholic rose up in great protest over the fact that they might be prevented from using birth control methods. Mr. Prittie probably knows about this much better than I do. There are a lot of different sociological concepts in the countries which make it a little difficult to compare what we have in Canada with these other countries.

Mr. ISABELLE: I have a few comments to make. It is very interesting; I think the committee has lots of work to do. I think we should make a good recommendation because all the four bills are practically the same, to amend a certain part of the Criminal Code. If so many break the law in Canada I think it is because the law is not enforced. If the law is not enforced and so many break the law it is only logical that something should be done.