

*Criminal Code*

Your Honour for disposition at the same time. You will notice that amendments Nos. 21, 22, 23, 31, 39, 40 and 41 are grouped together. On reading them you will see that what the hon. member is trying to do by tacking on this amendment is already proposed in several of these amendments grouped together with amendment No. 21 for discussion and voting purposes. I would think it is redundant on this ground.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about the point of order concerning the amendment moved by the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) and, with his approval, I would like to point out that six amendments have been put together for the purpose of the discussion dealing with the amendment No. 21 moved by the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave).

But if we read carefully the amendment moved by the latter, we realize that the sub-amendment moved by the hon. member for Regina East is not included in the amendment No. 21 which we are discussing at the present time. This is one of the reasons which, I think, justify the amendment proposed by the member for Regina East.

Now I should like to raise another point. There is no subsection (8) in clause 18 of Bill C-150. Therefore neither the hon. member for Regina East nor any other member could move a subamendment thereto.

Mr. Speaker, one can read the following in Standing Order 75(8), and I quote:

When the order of the day for the consideration of a report stage is called, any amendment of which notice has been given in accordance with section (5) of this order shall be open to debate and amendment.

The hon. member's subamendment is therefore quite in order in my opinion and so as to allay the fears of the Minister of Justice, who denies the right to move that subamendment, I would say that he seems to want to have his bill passed as soon as possible, at any cost and without accepting any amendment. And what he fears the most is to see a filibuster, as he precisely said when he spoke the first time.

Mr. Speaker, I had myself moved a similar amendment, which I quote:

—any member of the hospital staff of a hospital who has refused to take part in an abortion on purely medical grounds or on any other grounds, so that no judicial proceedings may be instituted against them.

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

As a matter of fact, among the six amendments we are studying at the same time, I have one which includes hospital staff, but the same cannot be said of the amendment before us.

That is why I believe the subamendment moved by the hon. member for Regina East is in order.

[*English*]

**Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia):** Mr. Speaker, I feel that what I am really doing is reiterating the third argument put forward by the Minister of Justice. It is important that we should look at Standing Order 75 (10) because in relation to this specific amendment it states:

Mr. Speaker shall have power to select or combine amendments or clauses to be proposed at the report stage and may, if he thinks fit, call upon any member who has given notice of an amendment to give such explanation of the subject of the amendment—

I suggest that in essence this determination has already been made by Mr. Speaker in that he has grouped amendment No. 21 with, among others, amendment No. 31 which contains the specific wording referred to by the hon. member for Regina East. I suggest, with respect, that so far as this amendment is concerned Mr. Speaker has already made a ruling under Standing Order 75(10).

● (4:30 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I want to support the proposals of the hon. member for Abitibi (Mr. Laprise), the member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) and the member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) who intend to propose a subamendment to sub-section (8) that the government wants to add to section 18 of the bill now under study.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the reasons referred to by the hon. minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) are not valid as far as procedure is concerned and the reason is quite simple. It is because we have to discuss a bill which contains 120 clauses and we have come to the report stage of the committee.

Like several other members, we moved amendments to modify the bill and make it acceptable. However, Mr. Speaker, as the debate proceeds, we can see the facts in their true light, at least on this side of the house, and that enabled the hon. member for Regina East to see that there is still a gap even in the amendments designed to improve the bill.