

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CRIMINAL CODE****AMENDMENT TO REMOVE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AS AN OFFENCE**

Mr. Kenneth Robinson (Lakeshore) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-123, to amend the Criminal Code (attempted suicide).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Robinson: I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce this bill. The section of the Criminal Code referred to presently reads as follows:

Everyone who attempts to commit suicide is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

Obviously suicide itself is not an offence, and it therefore seems ludicrous that attempted suicide should be considered an offence. The purpose of this bill is to remove an attempt to commit suicide from the category of offences mentioned in the Criminal Code and to restrict it to the field of medicine, its rightful place.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

UNITED NATIONS**ABSTENTION BY CANADA IN VOTE ON SANCTIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): I wish to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs and ask him to inform the house as to the basis of Canada's abstention from a vote last night in the trusteeship committee of the United Nations general assembly. The motion before the committee would have enforced economic sanctions against South Africa and Portugal, and would have called on Britain to use force in Rhodesia.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Canada's abstention in connection with the resolution voted upon on October 30 in the trusteeship committee, which as the hon. gentleman knows is the fourth committee of the general assembly, arose from the fact that the resolution contained a number of unacceptable paragraphs, including calls for the use of force to which the government is opposed. We did not vote against the resolution because, despite some of its injudicious provisions, its objective was to express dissatisfaction with the present situation in Rhodesia.

Mr. Stanfield: I gather from the minister that the government was opposed to armed
[Mr. Speaker.]

intervention in Rhodesia. But what is the position of the government of Canada with regard to the call for sanctions against South Africa and Portugal?

Mr. Sharp: We doubt whether this is a practical proposition at the present time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The government was awfully hopeful of success two years ago.

AGRICULTURE**CORN—VALUE FOR DUTY ON IMPORTS FROM U.S.**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): My question is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. On October 29 the minister informed the house that after full consultation with the United States, as he put it, he was able to announce a base price of \$1.05 for U.S. corn entering Canada. In view of the statement appearing in the press today by Mr. Orville Freeman, United States secretary for agriculture, indicating that no agreement at all had been reached in connection with the Canadian move, can the minister tell the house with whom, in fact, the agreement he spoke of was reached?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): I did not say we had reached agreement with the United States. I said we had held negotiations and discussions with the United States.

Mr. Peters: Can the minister tell us with whom his officials negotiated, if the discussions were not brought to the attention of the secretary for agriculture?

Mr. Olson: I think there is some distinction, at least, to be drawn between discussion and agreement. I said we had held discussions, not that we had reached agreement. The discussions took place between officials of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Trade and Commerce and other government departments concerned, and officials of the United States government.

Mr. Peters: In view of the statement by Mr. Freeman that the United States would consider retaliation or demands for compensation, will the minister stick by his commitment to the house to maintain the United States import level at \$1.05?

Mr. Olson: We are prepared to continue the discussion with the United States officials