

*Criminal Code*

also "likely", as well as the following terms, on page 43, paragraph (c), subsection (4):

(c) has by certificate in writing stated that in its opinion the continuation of the pregnancy of such female person would or would be likely to endanger her life or health,

This is the most important phrase of the whole clause, those are precisely the most important and the most far-reaching words of the whole bill; the words "likely", "health" and "would" are the words who will allow abortions by the hundred, without reason, and I am perfectly in order when I deal with them.

This clause means legalization of abortion. I am against abortion, AGAINST in capital letters—and I am going to tell you why.

My first reason is not stated for election purposes: legalization of therapeutic abortion, in my humble opinion, did not bring about a decrease in the number of criminal and illegal abortions in any of the countries who adopted this type of legislation. Absolutely nothing is being proposed in this bill to control clandestine abortions, which are most nefarious and dangerous.

● (9:40 p.m.)

That is the main reason why I oppose to the inclusion of clause 18 in the bill. It opens the door to all kind of abuses, while the hon. Minister of Justice knows very well that, after the bill has become law, in Canada, as in all other countries where such legislation was adopted, the number of illegal abortions will not diminish but keep on increasing. The hon. Minister and the government party are aware of that, but they do not submit any positive measure to check this rising tide, this problem of illegal or clandestine abortions, which have nefarious and highly dangerous consequences for the woman to whom incompetent people procure abortion by inadequate and mechanical means.

Mr. Speaker, there is absolutely no provision in this bill to stop this curse, this problem of clandestine abortions. Not only does the bill provide nothing offers nothing to solve the problem of clandestine abortions but more than that it is precisely designed to open the doors even wider to legalize illegal abortions to increase ten fold, a hundredfold the killings of human beings like you and me.

The second reason why I am—AGAINST—in capital letters, is that the doctor often feels embarrassed; and this is not stated by the Ralliement créditiste, nor by the Progressive Conservatives, nor by the Liberals nor by the members of the N.D.P. It is the doctors, them-

selves who say they are embarrassed by having to apply this legislation, which is absolutely inadequate to the needs, thoroughly incomplete and quite insufficient.

The doctor is embarrassed in a role which gives him too much freedom. He said it himself: the Medical association say it and there a flood of evidence shows us that this bill brings too much freedom, and this is why the doctors will be embarrassed to apply this legislation, to interpret it, since these physicians feel that the medical science is progressing on this question and that the decisions of the medical group will often be linked to a system of strictly personal values.

This legislation, is so loose precisely because of the words "health" and likely that the doctors themselves admit they are incapable to apply it intelligently and in accordance with the code of professional ethics. But it is precisely the doctors who will have to apply this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I think that these are interesting and plausible arguments that may weigh heavily in the balance and on the vote on this question.

Here is the third reason for which I oppose clause 18 of the bill and support the motion of the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) to delete clause 18. Abortion, is a crime that does not solve in any way the problems of the patients who request it; on the contrary it compounds these problems. If at least statistics could prove that legalizing abortion would solve the problem of the patients, we might be concerned about our stand; we might then admit that it is a solution to the problem.

But, according to the testimony of various medical boards in the province of Quebec, of specialists in that field, gynaecologists, paediatrists, and others, in short, according to all the testimonies we were able to gather, it is proved beyond a doubt, with self-explanatory figures—not only for Canada, but also for all those countries where this type of legislation was passed—that the abortion of a pregnant woman does not solve her problems but compounds them instead.

Mr. Speaker, in the face of such regressive legislation, we quite honestly cannot allow ourselves to be drawn into this nasty business, just to please the government, for if we gave in, we would condone heinous crimes and encourage the legalization of abortion.

There is another reason why I am opposed to keeping clause 18 in the bill. Abortion is not a solution.