

CRIMINAL CODE

The house resumed from Tuesday, February 11, consideration of the motion of Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton) that Bill C-150, to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, be read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I should like to know who pulled the fuse last night. It would have been easier for me to finish my speech last night. Still, I suppose there are sneaky people in all walks of life and they may not appreciate that what some take seriously is really a matter of philosophy.

Last night I spoke about abortion, endorsing the idea that later we shall put forward an amendment which would remove the abortion section from the Criminal Code. I support the idea for these reasons: I do not believe that three months after conception the foetus is alive in the sense of being a human being. During that period an abortion ought to be treated as any other medical problem is treated. A woman seeking an abortion ought to be viewed by a doctor as he would view a woman seeking to have her tonsils out. The decision to perform the abortion rests entirely with the medical practitioner, who may or may not be willing to perform it. Of course, he may or may not be willing to take a woman's tonsils out or to remove her appendix. That is entirely up to him. The doctor, of course, must decide whether the woman seeking an abortion has a medical problem.

I wonder where our medical practitioners have obtained statistics showing that in a population of 5 million people—I presume these are people with children—half a million abortions a year can be expected. There are those who, for religious reasons, do not think the abortion section should be removed from the Criminal Code. I suggest, if they are honest members of parliament, honest with themselves and the society they live in, they will concede that their religious convictions are forcing them into a position which is out of touch with the realities in our society and which, in the final analysis, contravenes the concepts of their religion. They have an obligation to give some consideration to this matter. If they do so, I believe many of them will

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eventually support the removal of the abortion section.

● (5:30 p.m.)

I also spoke about the problem of homosexuality, and said the government was making a sincere effort to remove from the Criminal Code the sections concerning homosexuality and substitute the right for two consenting adults to engage in homosexual practices. This is a step that has been taken by most modern societies. Our proposals stem from the Wolfenden report in England, and the legislation in that country based on that report has served it well.

I have been asked about some statistics I used. I hasten to say I may not have been misquoted but I certainly left the wrong impression if I said that ten per cent of the population in Ottawa is made up of homosexuals. I think some sections of our population might reach that level, and I leave it up to hon. members to ascertain for themselves where that might be. However, I would like to quote several statistics because the question has been asked, is this only true of Ottawa. I would like to quote from an article by a Toronto *Telegram* staff reporter, entitled "Society and the Homosexual". A lot of the information contained in it is based on evidence produced by Dr. K. G. Gray, professor of Forensic Psychiatry at the University of Toronto, one of the outstanding authorities in this field. The article begins:

Indoors, outdoors and all around the town certain citizens live with an eye on the law and a mind on sexual practices that commit them to a shadow world.

It's the world of the homosexual.

The Toronto Forensic Clinic—to which psychiatric cases are referred by the courts—believes there are 15,000 active male homosexuals in the metropolitan area alone, plus another 150,000 who are latent or bi-sexual.

This deviate population is swelled by 6,000 lesbians and 30,000 other women who live outwardly heterosexual lives but are sporadic or latent homosexuals.

This is a subject that deserves some consideration. Now, I wish to quote from another part of the article where, in reference to the John Howard Society, the author wrote:

The society told me: Depending on the size of the prison, homosexuality can run anywhere from 80 to 40 per cent.

The homosexual problem in our prisons is a very large one. Over the years I have been making recommendations that prisoners be allowed conjugal visits with their wives and