

Criminal Code

listen to me and I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we will be brave enough to take our responsibilities, so as not to fear those who tomorrow will assume them and will be sitting in this house.

Mr. Jean-Charles Cantin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Would the hon. member allow just one question?

Mr. Fortin: With pleasure, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I must remind the house that the time of the hon. member has expired and unanimous consent is required to allow the parliamentary secretary to ask his question. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Cantin: Does the hon. member finally admit that homosexuals are not criminals? If I am not mistaken, that is what he has just said.

Mr. Fortin: Exactly. They are not criminals, they are ill.

Mr. Cantin: Then, is it not precisely the intent of the proposed amendment that they no longer be regarded as criminals, except when the protection of youth is involved?

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Speaker, I agree with that. I am against taking those provisions out of the Criminal Code if, at the same time, nothing positive is done to help those people. Otherwise, it would be as if I were against red lights and that each time I ran past one, I would say to the person who would stop me: My friend, I am not sick, and I would go on my way.

Mr. Speaker, I am in favour of abolishing this provision of the Criminal Code. But at the same time, it is important to do something concrete, otherwise it is not possible to agree logically.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): The score is now 2-0 for Boston. Is the house ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi) moved:

That Bill C-150, an Act 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 amended by deleting therefrom clause 7.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): No.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, if I understood the remarks of the Speaker at the beginning of the debate yesterday, I think it was agreed that amendments Nos. 3 and 4 would be discussed and voted on at the same time. For those reasons, Mr. Chairman, I wonder if it would not be appropriate that amendment No. 4 I proposed be read immediately.

An hon. Member: It is the same thing.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): I think it was the intention to put the question on the first amendment and if it were negated, that would dispose of the two amendments. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt the said amendment?

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those in favour of the amendment will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): All those opposed to the amendment will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): In my opinion, the nays have it.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Was it not understood from the chair that the vote, if called would be deferred?

Mr. Woolliams: I don't think that's right.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Pursuant to standing order 75(11), the vote on this amendment is deferred.

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

It has been proposed that the vote be deferred and I note that there are three further amendments on clause 7.