

Family Planning for Quebec, Mr. Levesque, announced that the government of Quebec was contemplating doing something in this field, and I would like to read a report from the *Globe and Mail* on this subject:

A spokesman for Quebec's Department of Family and Social Welfare confirmed yesterday that government planners were studying the possibility of giving aid to family-planning agencies in the province.

"We have no intention of reopening the theological discussion of this subject in the past," the official said. But he expressed confidence that the church no longer opposed the principle of birth control.

Later the article goes on to say:

The possibility of the Quebec government's giving aid to birth-control clinics was first mentioned last Friday in a brief that Welfare Minister René Lévesque presented to a federal-provincial conference on the Canada Assistance Plan.

"Quebec is taking the lead in breaking down the myths that have surrounded this subject," the official said.

He noted that in addition to the family-planning group associated with English-speaking welfare agencies such as the Red Feather in Montreal, there were two Catholic-oriented groups working in the field, one in Quebec and the other in Montreal.

So there is evidence that the province itself—and this may be the first province—is officially entering the field. The same thing has been done in Manitoba where a number of organizations in the province have decided to form a province-wide family planning association to make this sort of information available.

I would like to briefly review some of the history of the attempts to get legislation on this subject changed. I presented a bill in the session of 1963. It was very low on the order paper and was not debated. In 1964 I presented a bill which did come up for debate in September of that year. Prior to that debate taking place on September 11, 1964, a great many letters had been written to members of parliament and to the government by thousands of people and organizations. Not only the Family Planning Association whom you would expect to do this, but organizations such as the United Church of Canada, the Anglican Church in Canada have passed resolutions. The Canadian Medical Association, passed a resolution on this subject at the conference in Vancouver in 1964, also the Canadian Bar Association and the National Council of Women, just to mention some of the organizations.

You may recall that that was the year that one private bill was passed, the bill presented by Mr. Chrétien to change the name of Trans-Canada Air Lines. I had hoped that a second private bill would have been passed that year.

Now I understand the government partly discussed this at some length and came to the conclusion that they would not give it the same treatment that private members' bills usually receive. And this, in fact, was the case. I know that quite a number of my friends in the government party worked very hard to bring this about. Only one government member did speak against it—Mr. O'Keefe, who is here, and he did so because of his own personal convictions, which I understand. The bill was talked about by Mr. Gauthier of Roberval and Mr. Langlois of Mégantic. I spoke to them afterwards and they apparently