

*Criminal Code*

a country and promote a healthy and worthwhile education. But we must force upon the people and the government the necessity of having a balanced and controlled sexuality and of fostering a conscious and responsible love.

Nobody can maintain in this house that to be in favour of abortions on request is a responsible act, because it means escaping our responsibilities. Let us build but let us build on firm ground.

Sexuality must be controlled love must be conscious of what it must offer and of what it receives. Thus, it will not be necessary to perform abortions on unmarried mothers, because every effort will have been made to reduce their number. That is the great difference between those who favour this legislation and those who oppose it.

Those who favour it do not ask themselves whether it will decrease the number of unmarried mothers or solve their problems.

On the other hand, those who oppose it would like to see, instead of this measure to legalize abortion, some legislation that really stands a chance of solving the problem.

We must stir in everyone a sense of respect for life, and this parliament must set the example.

If people understood all that abortion entails, a great number would already be willing to oppose it. We must abhor everything that can destroy the human being, for instance, war, murder, crime, and abortion on a large scale, rather than those cases where it is a question of saving the life of the mother when this can almost certainly be established by the doctor.

Another solution might be to instil in couples an awareness of their role as procreators, as responsible fathers and mothers, conscious of their role, instead of being the toys of their uncontrolled sex urge and of trying to destroy today the life they transmitted themselves yesterday.

● (5:40 p.m.)

That is a concept of life that the legislators should endeavour to translate into laws and to establish as a guiding principle in order to encourage the Canadian people to build the country on a solid foundation. To this end, one must be prepared to give financial aid if necessary and to establish the required organizations.

In my opinion, it is only at that level that the State should interfere. Is it not the State's duty to protect the welfare of Society instead

[Mr. Fortin.]

of destroying the sense of family responsibility? Married couples should be helped to fulfill their roles as parents and educators. The State must supply the necessary machinery for this form of education, including all guidance and protection services at all levels of society.

Many organizations strive, by every means available, to make people understand that love is a great thing that must be cultivated, that it involves give and take, that it is not simply a pleasure but that it also entails duties and responsibilities. If on the one hand, private organizations do their utmost unstintingly to help the Canadian family achieve its noble purposes and if, on the other hand, the federal government destroys this voluntary work, we shall get nowhere.

Let us then work together in an effort to enhance the status of Canadian life, of family life, and of the human being. Let such an education materialize in educational courses for young people, in order to prepare them gradually for their role of married people, of responsible parents. We must make available to our young people a more immediate preparation for married life through appropriate courses, with subsidies if need be. The government should co-operate with private organizations in order to help young couples build their home on a sound basis. Those are the reasons why we are opposing the provisions on abortion.

At the same time, we have to suggest effective measures to help our families. For example, we should recommend the establishment of family courts, of advisory centres for the benefit of couples who experience difficulties. Today instead, couples in trouble either for social, family or marital reasons are left on their own, without any help. The government stays out of those problems, not through lack of a sense of responsibility, but because it has never been made aware of the question, and that it does not provide in its legislation anything in that respect.

The government should provide in its legislation a real assistance to homes, families and young people experiencing difficulties.

The Minister of Justice already had an investigation made on juvenile delinquency in Canada. The report has been on the shelves since I do not know when, and it will never be used. However, in order to make the people believe that we were looking after those juvenile delinquents, who might have had no opportunities, a very well thought-out report has been published; the authors laid their