During the last debate, I voted against the motions that were tabled because I did not want to criminalize abortion. I said that was no way to deal with the situation. I said we had to provide financial help to women who want to have a child but can't afford to because they do not have the financial resources. We all know women in our towns and villages who would like to have a larger family but just can't afford it. We need measures to promote adoption, measures to provide assistance at all levels, and we need a genuine family policy.

Instead of talking about abortion, I would have much preferred to discuss ways of providing for a genuine family policy in this country that would make it possible to deal with all these problems. I think Canadians would much rather hear us talk about that than about abortion or the chances of it being criminalized.

We will not solve the problem by forcing a woman to bring her pregnancy to term. Certainly not. Making abortion a crime will not solve the problem. It is by taking steps to support pregnant women. It is in this sense that I consider myself now and always definitely Pro-Life. I want to encourage life by all possible means.

• (1710)

As a lawyer, I can tell you that the bill will criminalize a situation which, from the practical point of view, will never occur, except under extreme circumstances which any way would deserve a penalty, either under the Criminal Code or otherwise.

In a most interesting article, well informed *La Presse* Editor Alain Dubuc stated, and I quote: "The Bill defines abortion as a crime; yet, its application is so loose that it clearly supports abortion on demand." He added: "This clearly indicates a greater concern for ideas than for the concrete problems of women." Further: "In short, let us strike a balance between humanism and militantism". And finally: "All this means that abortion may be a crime, but no abortion performed by a physician in Canada will be a criminal act!" And I trust that is what is going to happen.

Let us have a look at the Bill which is so clear that most Canadian men and women will understand it easily:

> Every person who induces an abortion on a female person is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years—

First of all, I wish to emphasize the fact that under the present abortion legislation, that person would be liable to imprisonment for life. This Bill adopts the least severe penalty under the Criminal Code, namely two years. There are penalties of five, ten and twenty years. There are different categories. In that respect, the Bill criminalizes abortion. I do not agree that it should become a crime, but it is the least serious criminal act referred to in Canada's Criminal Code.

> Every person who induces an abortion on a female person—

This, of course, excludes the woman herself. Under the old statute a woman could be sent to jail for life. In this instance, for all practical purposes the woman is excluded. The physician might be put behind bars to serve a relatively short sentence. That is a very big advantage.

Should I be offended because this medical act must be approved by a physician? No, not at all. Indeed I fail to see how an abortion could be performed by someone other than a physician. Even if we did not legislate the physician would still have to give his opinion. I do not see how a physician could be forced to induce an abortion if he happens to be against that medical act. We saw that in the Daigle-Tremblay case last summer. A number of Quebec physicians expressed the view that after so many weeks they would not have performed that abortion, even though the legislation had been struck down at the time. There was no law. If no physician is prepared to do it, we are back to square one. There has to be a physician to induce an abortion. Whether or not the bill says the advice of a physician is required, in practical terms it is exactly the same thing.

Here is how health is defined:

> Every person who induces an abortion on a female person—unless the abortion is induced by or under the direction of a medical practicioner who is of the opinion that, if the abortion were not induced, the health or life of the female person would be likely to be threatened.

Then we have the definition of health. That is what we learned from the Supreme Court in the Morgentaler case. Health means "physical, mental and psychological health". The woman's psychological health. Let me go back to the measures I mentioned earlier.