

Criminal Code

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about the amendments introduced by the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) dealing with Bill C-51.

First, I would like to make it clear that we have always been in favour of law and order—there is no doubt about that. We back perhaps 100 per cent the police departments to maintain law and order in Canada, and we are also in favour of establishing courts of justice and for security. On the other hand, when we examine the history of all those countries where with the same arguments that are being made, namely in the name of security, they want to put up wiretaps and make them available to all police departments in Canada, we fully realize that this gives opposite results.

Mr. Speaker, police reforms are currently under way in Quebec. Everybody knows that municipalities and cities today have lost, not control over police departments but the sense of democracy in that they can no longer from a practical point of view fire those policemen who no longer meet the needs of those municipalities. There are hundreds of cases in Quebec where city councils wanted to fire policemen. Those problems have been before our courts for several years and are not over yet. I could give striking examples, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore, there is talk at present of taking away from Quebec municipalities the authority they now have over police departments to transfer that authority to the government of Quebec. In that way, the police departments in our municipalities and cities will become with respect to discipline and for all other areas responsible to the government of Quebec. That means that the further away we move authority from the people, the less security we have. This legislation will only trouble ordinary people because criminals, bandits, those who may fear bugging are smart enough not to use the telephone to consult their lawyers. On the other hand, 99.9 per cent of the people—honest people—will have to fear consulting their lawyer because they will not know if his office is not bugged when it is the bandits who should be under surveillance.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will only bother people as a whole, but it will not solve anything as far as crime is concerned because those who will be directly concerned by this legislation will be smart enough to find ways to elude wiretapping of any police force. Mr. Speaker, municipalities in the province of Quebec—because it will be an ever more critical issue in that province—will have less and less power over police forces and authority will be more and more in the hands of the state. It is also established that the more we rely on the state for our security, the less the ordinary citizen is protected.

For all these reasons and many others, particularly because this legislation will do nothing but annoy honest people in the province of Quebec as well as in other provinces, without changing anything in the crime situation in Canada, I have an obligation to vote for the motion, not out of fanaticism for civil rights, but for liberty alone. I will have an obligation to vote for the amendments of the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams).

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

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

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

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

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Pursuant to section 11 of Standing Order 75, the recorded division on the proposed motion stands deferred.

Motions Nos. 33 and 34 will be grouped for debate and will be voted on together.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North) moved:

Motion No. 33.

That Bill C-51, an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Customs Tariff, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act, be amended in clause 12 by striking out lines 30 to 33 at page 52 and substituting the following therefor:

"which the authorization was given, notify in".

Motion No. 34.

That Bill C-51, an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Customs Tariff, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act and the Prisons and Reformatories Act, be amended in clause 12 by striking out lines 44 to 47 at page 52 and lines 1 to 27 at page 53.

● (2110)

He said: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the applause, particularly that from the government side. I hope they will put their applause with their votes.

Mr. Fox: Count on it.

Mr. Woolliams: The hon. lady shakes her head, but her grandmother would not agree. She is a real Conservative and the hon. lady knows that. Let us get down to the gritty facts.

An hon. Member: Gritty facts?