

I am convinced that the time is long past due when we should eliminate the leg hold trap. In this regard there have been a number of private members' bills presented to this House. I think it is time for the government to bring forward a Conibear trap; and in the area under its own jurisdiction, namely, the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the government should ban the leg hold trap immediately. We can then move on to deal with the question of possible payment of compensation to trappers. They have a problem in terms of the cost of the leg hold trap, but as a civilized country we should not allow use of this kind of inhumane trap to continue in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Leggatt: In conclusion, once again I congratulate the hon. member for his bill. I know of his long felt sympathy for the problems of animals and I am delighted he has again raised the matter in the House. I agree that we should reconstitute the animal welfare committee and I thank him again for his invitation to join that committee.

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, I also would like to congratulate the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore (Mr. Robinson) for introducing Bill C-241. I overheard the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) mention it is unlikely this bill will be passed tonight. I can appreciate his feelings, as there is a zoo in his riding. I also believe in the welfare of animals and I am rising on a matter of principle at this stage to point out that the legislation put forward by the hon. member provides for minimum penalties. In my view it is desirable and a matter of principle to avoid mentioning minimum sentences in the Criminal Code.

We can see in the Criminal Code a reverse trend because the people who are entrusted with administering justice in Canada think that the courts should be given the prerogative of deciding on the penalty which best fits the offence. If a provincial attorney general does not approve of the sentence, an appeal can be lodged.

Without trying in any way, to vindicate cruelty to animals, I believe, once again, Mr. Speaker, that we should not lose sight of the nature of the offence.

● (1800)

If a minimum sentence is provided for under this charge, we shall have to reconsider the penalties applicable to other serious offences against law and order. To provide for minimum sentences for offences which are a patent transgression of a prohibition ordinance by a Court would be giving Canadian judges less credit than they deserve. So, as I have said before, my purpose is not to contradict my learned colleague, the hon. member for Toronto-Lakeshore (Mr. Robinson) who wants animals protected in this country but rather to comment on a matter of principle with regard to sentencing. He advocates a minimum sentence for repeated offenders guilty of flouting a prohibition ordinance—

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. The hour appointed for the consideration of private members'

Measures Against Crime

business has expired. I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock this evening.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

NOTICE OF TIME ALLOCATION MOTION FOR SECOND READING STAGE ON BILL TO AMEND MEDICAL CARE ACT

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House that it has not been possible to reach agreement under the provisions of Standing Order 75A and 75B in respect of proceedings on the second reading of Bill C-68, an act to amend the Medical Care Act. Therefore, in accordance with Standing Order 75C, I hereby give notice that at the next sitting of the House I shall move that not more than five hours shall be allotted to the consideration and disposal of proceedings at the said stage of the said bill.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Shame!

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT (NO. 1), 1976

MEASURES FOR BETTER PROTECTION OF CANADIAN SOCIETY AGAINST CRIME

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Basford that Bill C-83, for the better protection of Canadian society against perpetrators of violence and other crime, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee of Justice and Legal Affairs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. As hon. members know, the House agreed to allow the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) to move an amended version of the amendment he proposed the other day. With the consent of the House, that motion not having been put, I shall now put it to the House. The hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker), for the hon. member for Calgary North, seconded by the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean), moves:

That all the words after "That" be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"Bill C-83, An Act for the better protection of Canadian society against perpetrators of violent and other crime, be not now read a