

Criminal Code

Because we lived in close proximity to the reform school, I was in close contact with the everyday happenings in that school. I recall the severe discipline of those days. My father helped a great deal in changing some of those terrible disciplinary methods. In later years when I was in western Canada I ran into successful young men who did not hesitate to remind me they had gone to that school and been taught by my father in Portage la Prairie. They were anxious to see him. That sort of discipline would not be tolerated today in any way, shape or form.

I am concerned because parents are becoming increasingly permissive. Because we are not sure in our minds about the difference between right and wrong, we tell our young people, "We will reduce the amount of discipline and make your lives easier to live, even though you do wrong." I am in favour of increasing the age at which a child or young person may be convicted, and was appalled to hear the hon. member for Calgary North say that children of seven were confined as he described. Even though the age limit is raised, alternative methods of dealing with our youth must be found. But they should not be told they can run out and demonstrate and disregard law and order, as they are doing today.

I hoped that the lawyers in this House who must be experienced in these matters as a result of having been involved in court proceedings could shed some light on this problem. I cannot conceive, from my limited knowledge of court procedure, that any young people in this country would behave in a courtroom as some people behaved a few days ago in Chicago. I understand the people involved were refused bail by the judge, and that bail has been granted by another judge. I have heard talk to the effect that the judge himself will face some type of trial.

I think all parents are concerned about our finding alternatives to the sentences being meted out to our young people, regardless of their age. What about the young fellows who sit around the house at night watching television and seeing violence portrayed: what are we doing to change that situation? What are we doing to change their environment? Let us grapple with the roots of the problem instead of saying merely that the age limit with respect to convictions should be raised to 12 or 16 years of age. All these young people need our help, Mr. Speaker. Clearly, if we are considering decreasing the voting age from 21 to 18, we are doing so because the young people of today know a great deal more than they knew in days gone by.

[Mr. Pringle.]

Mr. Woolliams: The hon. member has talked the bill out.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order, please. The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business having expired, I do now leave the chair until 8 o'clock.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**NORTHERN INLAND WATERS BILL****CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that Bill C-187, respecting Inland Water Resources in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, before private members' hour I was making some suggestions as to what the real necessity for this bill might be. I was inquiring of the minister—and perhaps he might answer this question when closing the debate at this stage—why the legislation is really necessary. As far as members of this party can see, it is redundant and is repetitious of the Canada Water Act. We in this party believe that the setting up of the two boards mentioned by the minister could have been done under existing legislation. I refer to the Yukon Water Board and the Northwest Territories Water Board. There is really no purpose for this provision.

I wish to make one or two other remarks in this regard. In his remarks this afternoon, the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard) referred to the great duplication of legislation and questioned its necessity. I have already alluded to that matter. It seems that this legislation is unnecessary. The setting up of these boards could have been done under existing legislation. This multiplicity of legislation is unnecessary. It is not a particularly expensive matter, but it does take up the time of this House.