

Criminal Records

For the police, anyone who is arrested, is guilty. The law should provide better protection for the citizen. For example, if the police were not allowed to bring anyone to a police station or to put anyone in jail—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchar): Order. This has nothing to do with the matter before us and for the third time I would ask the hon. member to limit his remarks to the subject.

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, if the bill does not refer to convictions, if the measure before us is not titled "An Act to provide for the relief of persons who have been convicted of offences and have subsequently rehabilitated themselves", I wonder what I am talking about, since it is what I am reading in the bill.

All I ask, Mr. Speaker, is that you do not lose patience with me, I have almost finished.

I just wanted to conclude by making a suggestion that has some merit, I think. If we accepted it, we would never see in the newspapers and on television what has happened recently and, what is in my view most unfortunate. I am a bit ashamed of being from Quebec when I see the Provincial Police doing such stupid things before the eyes of the whole population.

We must put an end to that, that is why I am making the following suggestion: When a person is arrested and jailed by a police officer, an impartial witness should be on the spot, to ascertain that the accused is not ill-treated, that he is not knocked on the head, that he is not handcuffed uselessly before it is ascertained that the charge is justified.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchar): Order, please. It being four o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motion, public bills, private bills.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I have checked on this side, and I think in the House generally there is some disposition to waive the private members' hour. The hon. member for South Western Nova (Mr. Comeau) has very graciously agreed to stand his motion, so it will not be charged against him and will be debated later. May I suggest we go on with this bill and, hopefully, finish it before five o'clock? Certainly we will not sit past five. In fact, if we could have another one or two short speeches we might finish a few minutes after

four o'clock and we could repay the staff for the extra time we asked them to sit a couple of weeks ago.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchar): Is it so agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Translation]

Mr. Matte: Mr. Speaker, I had decided to end my speech on these words, but if the House wishes to hear the rest, I can go on.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchar): Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

• (4:00 p.m.)

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchar): The hon. member for Sarnia.

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize it is somewhat hard for the Chair to see a backbencher this far back in the House, and sometimes it is difficult to be heard.

Mr. Comeau: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not wish to delay our proceedings unduly; I wish to co-operate with the House by forfeiting the time available to me in the private members' hour. But what puzzles me a little is that last week a fisheries bill was under discussion in the House, the question was put and thereafter there was no chance for anyone to make a speech or to go back to the bill. However, today we have passed a bill and it appears there is an opportunity for someone to speak on it.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchar): I should like to apologize to the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Cullen). I failed to notice him when he got to his feet and I had to recognize him afterwards. I should like to remind him that the House has agreed to go on with this bill.

[English]

Mr. Lundrigan: I rise on the same point of order, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to be difficult; I am interested in hearing from the hon. member for Sarnia (Mr. Cullen). Nevertheless, I should like to give Your Honour the precedent upon which we are basing our observations. Last week a bill came before the House, a vote was called and an agree-