

Government Orders

aspects of the government's approach. The basic questions remain.

Can it reasonably be enforced? Is it the most practical approach to solving the problem? Having read through what we have attempted to do with this bill, C-109, having heard my colleague, the eloquent member for Mount Royal, attempt to make not outrageous, not even sensitive suggestions to this government by amendments, we concluded that after the committee process the government had acted hastily in resorting first to the Criminal Code rather than pursuing a more technical means to resolving the problem. I think we have just got to say no, it just does not make sense.

• (1700)

Mr. Speaker, I thank you and this House for the time to comment.

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I too take pleasure in debating Bill C-109, an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Crown Liability and Proceedings Act and the Radiocommunication Act.

It is interesting how quickly the Minister of Justice is prepared to bring changes to the Criminal Code over something that probably could be prevented, as the member for Hamilton West said, by technology. We have very sophisticated technology and I think we have the technology to probably solve this problem with modern sophisticated technology instead of trying to work it in to the Criminal Code.

It is interesting how after four years of representations in this House by the Official Opposition the present Minister of Justice and the former Minister of Justice would not make any changes to the Criminal Code to make communities safer against repeat sex offenders, against hard core criminals who have served part of their sentences and then are released back into the community. That is where Canadians were asking for changes to the Criminal Code. Somehow all of our representations there fell on deaf ears.

My residents are approaching judges and the police now to even prevent some of the hard core criminals from receiving bail. I know it is the right of every Canadian to receive bail and to be out on bail while awaiting sentence, but there are some criminals who if

they are out on bail will repeat the same act whether it is another molestation of a child or another rape of a young girl or even leading to a more severe crime of murder. The residents of Parkdale—High Park are saying: "Your Honour, this person should not be given bail because he or she would be a danger on the streets".

I am pleased to say that some judges are now listening to the residents. Residents can actually make representations in front of judges. I know of a few cases where the judges have listened and refused to allow bail for someone because the community has convinced the judge that by releasing this person the person may be a danger to the community.

Any changes that we bring to the Criminal Code, whether it is protection of cellular phones, whatever, I think we have to keep in mind the safety of the community, the safety of the individual homes, be that home in an apartment or in a condominium, be it a private dwelling. Any changes we make to the Criminal Code must always take into account the safety of individuals and communities.

We have stressed for so long in this country the rights of the individual and that we should not lose sight of. But I think we have come to a stage in the development of our society in Canada where we have to ask: "What about the rights of the innocent victim?" The police and the residents of the communities are complaining that the criminals are given more protection than the community. We made many representations in this House about the minister bringing in changes to the Criminal Code to prevent drug pushers.

• (1705)

Many times I have drawn to the minister's attention how the residents can identify the crack houses. They will give this address in my riding, they will give that address. They know the drug trade that is going on in this 24-hour doughnut shop. They know the drug trade that is going on in this restaurant. Just last week another stabbing occurred in a local restaurant in my riding. I will try to avoid using names for the protection of these businesses in my riding.

For years residents have been saying: "Please close this 24-hour doughnut shop because that is where the crimes are committed". "Please take the liquor licence