

*Government Orders*

Then, why does the Solicitor General of Canada need the powers under clause 54(2) of Bill C-7 when the investigative power of police officers already provides for such measures?

Furthermore, infiltration is aimed at gathering information on dealers or on trafficking.

However, in the case quoted by the Solicitor General, the RCMP and the Sûreté du Québec—and I must emphasize that it is the Solicitor General of Canada who referred to the groups that I talked about earlier—mentioned that they were aware of the cocaine trafficking done by the Warriors.

So, this bill does not set forth anything new, nor does it provide any additional powers. We have to admit that the Solicitor General could act immediately to put an end to trafficking everywhere in Canada. That statement makes us believe that the Solicitor General is behind the anticipated passage of Bill C-7 in order to gain time and delay any intervention in those territories.

If the bill were so essential to the fight against drug trafficking in Canada, does it mean Canada never offered any resistance to drug dealers before the passage of the bill we are now studying? I hope this is only an extrapolation and that Bill C-7 is presented to this House with a view to modernizing a police procedure already in place and consolidating the Canadian drug control policy, as mentioned in the explanatory notes to the bill. However, one fact still remains: the government is not reaching its objective with this bill, it is presenting a faulty bill, one that is badly written, confused and difficult to enforce.

That being said, Mr. Speaker, to convince you, I think it would be appropriate to stress one of the points raised on Friday, February 18, by the hon. member of the Bloc Québécois for Portneuf when he discussed Bill C-7. You will remember he was explaining to the House the deficiencies of Bill C-7.

After studying the bill, the Bloc Québécois classified its deficiencies under four categories. I will review them briefly. First, the legitimate activities of doctors, pharmacists and veterinarians; were these people adequately protected by this bill? Second, the enormous powers given to inspectors designated by the minister; are they not of such nature as to allow, if not induce, mistakes which will unduly penalize health professionals and their patients?

Third, how will the confidential nature of medical records be respected when the law allows just about anybody designated as an inspector by the minister to copy the files held by health care institutions and to seize all their computer files? The last question is why does this bill call criminal and throw in jail individuals who, in fact, are drug addicts in need of treatment?

As the Official Opposition critic for the Solicitor General, I will deal mainly with the third question regarding the confidential nature of medical records.

I do think that, should this bill be passed without amendment, it will jeopardize the confidential nature of medical records. Under the provisions of the bill, the lawmaker will make it harder for policemen to search the home of a known drug dealer than for an inspector appointed by the minister to carry out what would amount to a seizure in a hospital or at the corner drugstore.

One has only to refer to Part IV of Bill C-7 to realize how far-reaching are the powers of an inspector designated by the minister to enforce the act.

• (1330)

Under clause 29 of the bill:

29.(1) The Minister may designate any person as an inspector for the purposes of this Act and the regulations.

The expression "any person" send shivers down my spine because this person is given a lot of power.

Under clause 30. (1) of the bill:

30. (1) Subject to subsection (2), an inspector may, to ensure compliance with the regulations, at any reasonable time enter any place used for the purpose of conducting the business or professional practice of any person licensed or otherwise authorized under the regulations to deal in a controlled substance or a precursor and may for that purpose

We are dealing here with professionals, not smugglers or pushers, but real professionals who are licensed for this very purpose.

This small paragraph therefore entitles anyone designated by the minister pursuant to clause 29 to enter at just about any time—clause 30 even specifies at any time of the day—a doctor's office, a pharmacy, a hospital, an LCSC, or the office of any other health professional who has obtained the required licence.

What are the powers of an inspector doing an inspection? I will tell you. Among other things, he can:

(a) open and examine any receptacle or package—

examine anything found in a place that:

(b) —is used or may be capable of being used for the production, preservation, packaging or storage of a controlled substance—

(c) examine any labels or advertising material or records, books, electronic data or other documents found in that place with respect to any controlled substance—

And the list goes on and on.

The inspector can even:

(e) reproduce any document from any electronic data referred to in paragraph (c) or cause it to be reproduced, in the form of a printout or other output;