

Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act

to arrive at some understanding in order to improve the parole system in our country and therefore in all the provinces.

(Translation):

Mr. Roberge: Mr. Chairman, I started my remarks in French and I intended to continue them in French but, because of the difficulties we have had with the loudspeaker system, I switched to English without really noticing it. Perhaps this is a novel method of simultaneous translation.

Mr. Chairman, all hon. members will agree, I am sure, that civil servants now working in the remission service under the Solicitor General (Mr. Balcer) are making commendable efforts, that they willingly assume their responsibilities and that they do a fine job of it.

(Text):

Mr. Deschatelets: I understand five commissioners will be appointed on a full time basis. I should like to know whether a French-speaking commissioner will be appointed according to this resolution.

Mr. Winch: Mr. Chairman, at present all I want to comment on are matters affecting the resolution stage itself. We in this group most heartily commend the Minister of Justice for the introduction of this resolution which is the forerunner of a bill for the establishment of a national parole board. With all of the changes that have taken place in penology over the years it seems rather strange that we should on a federal basis hope to administer an act which fundamentally has not been changed for, I believe, in the neighbourhood of 60 years.

We in this group were very appreciative of the action of the previous government in establishing a commission to make a thorough study of the entire question of parole. We feel they did an excellent job and brought in a good report. We are very happy this evening to find the implementation of the first move being brought about as part of the recommendations of the Fauteux committee. A great deal, of course, could be said on this resolution stage, but it is the decision of this group that at the present time it is not appropriate to go into the entire field relating to this question. We feel that the efficiency of parliament would be better served by waiting until we actually have the bill before us, complete with all its principles, its implications and its sections.

All I am now doing, therefore, on behalf of our group is to commend the government for bringing in a resolution leading up to the establishment of a national parole board and at the second reading, after we have had a chance to study the bill and to see

exactly what the government has in mind, we will make our comments.

Mr. Fulton: I appreciate very much indeed the attitude of the committee towards this resolution, which I think illustrates the striking degree of unanimity in principle on the general approach to this problem. There may be details with respect to administration and so on about which we will differ, but I do think it is quite an interesting illustration of the extent to which there is in this house and in Canada generally agreement that our system does require overhaul in this respect.

I join with those who have spoken in expressing appreciation of and tribute to those of my predecessors who have made the Fauteux report possible, and to the committee itself which had made possible the resolution now before us.

The hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont asked a specific question with respect to the number of the members of the board and as to whether there would be appointed a French-speaking member. I can assure him that it is our intention to appoint to this board the best possible representatives who can be found, bearing in mind their interests, experience and skills in this particular field. In appointing these members of the board, due regard will be had for the racial and geographical composition of Canada.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

Mr. Fulton thereupon moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-49, to provide for the conditional liberation of persons undergoing sentences of imprisonment.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

EMERGENCY GOLD MINING ASSISTANCE ACT

AMENDMENTS TO EXTEND APPLICATION AND INCREASE AMOUNT

Hon. Paul Comtois (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act to extend its application to the years 1959 and 1960 and to provide for a twenty-five per cent increase in the amount of assistance for the years 1958, 1959 and 1960.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Rea in the chair.

(Translation):

Mr. Dumas: I wonder if the minister could make a statement on this resolution?

(Text):

Mr. Comtois: Mr. Chairman, this resolution proposes to extend the Emergency Gold