

I am wondering exactly to what use it is anticipated the instrument will be used. I doubt that it will be utilized as a letter of recommendation for employment or as a supporting document for a credit rating. I also have second thoughts that it will ever be framed by the recipient for public viewing, and if we issue the pardon with a view to impressing police officers we might just as well repeal the act forthwith. The fact is that 88 per cent of those who have succeeded in rehabilitation have done so by hiding their past from a society that will not understand them, and the same fate no doubts awaits the pardon. There is evidently but one reason for using the RCMP, which is economic and budgetary in nature.

It is a strange and weird reflection of a society that abandons all budgetary limits in spending \$10,000 per year to keep a man incarcerated and in punishment, but in the matter of rehabilitation this same consideration looms as an impossible obstacle.

It is for these reasons that I have introduced the motion. I believe that the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, or a subcommittee thereof, should investigate and report on the administration of this act and, in the light of their investigation, recommend reforms they may find needed or desirable.

In closing, I should like to permit the inmates to speak for themselves through Leo, an inmate at the Leclerc Institute near Montreal. Leo gave the valedictory address at the graduation ceremonies about two weeks ago on behalf of his class, which had completed and graduated in a data processing course offered to 15 inmates at that institution. By the grace of God and the National Parole Board these men may possibly rejoin society and useful employment in industry in the coming months. This is the third class to graduate at the Leclerc Institute. Approximately 30 had graduated prior to this year in a course offered by the Data Processing Association of Montreal, and 29 of those 30 are now usefully employed in industry in Canada. They are out of institutions, and their families are off welfare. As I said, Leo was the valedictorian for the class, and here is part of what he had to say:

We seek to forget the past, yet we do not wish to deceive. We have done what we have done, we are who we are, our biggest desire is to regain our place in society and live the lives of normal men. We cannot accomplish this by ourselves; we need the confidence of others, they must be willing to accept us as we are and as we will be.

Leo and others like him will no doubt be applying for pardons when the time limit has passed. These are people who have paid their debt to society, who have overcome all obstacles and stigma that can be placed in their path. I submit to you that they are entitled to every consideration possible from a grateful society or a grateful people. I make no apology for taking the time of the Senate to bring their plea to your attention, with the request that consideration be given to righting a wrong, and on their behalf I move the motion standing in my name.

23351—57½

**Hon. L. P. Beaubien:** Honourable senators, I hope the honourable Senator Hastings will forgive me if I say that I have never disagreed more with a speech than the one I have just heard, except perhaps the first speech he made to us on this subject.

What are we looking at now? We are looking at an act that is going to destroy the record of a criminal. As honourable Senator Hastings told us, the first man he mentioned has been rehabilitated for 30 years; he has never had any problems. Why would he appeal then, if he has never had any problems, to have his record obliterated? Simply because he is going to fool somebody? And who are the people who will be there to say he is going to fool somebody, and who we are so anxious to keep out of the action? The RCMP, the only police force that polices all of Canada, knows what is going on. I have never in my life heard such a lot of nonsense as we hear now, and right along the line.

Are any of these bleeding hearts gushing over the wives of policemen who have been killed? No society has ever survived if law and order has not been maintained. Are we keeping it? A few years ago, in our wisdom, we came up with a most extraordinary thing—that there were two kinds of murder. Some filthy crooks strangle the life out of a minister of the Crown and that is considered non-capital murder. However, if you look at the record you will see that it really does not make much difference whether a murder is deemed capital or not. A few years ago a ruthless gangster dressed up in a Santa Claus suit stood over a wounded policeman as he lay motionless on a sidewalk in front of a bank and blew his brains out with a submachine gun. And the cabinet of Canada, greatly to its discredit, commuted the sentence.

Now what are we talking about? We are talking about the Parole Board. A seasoned judge gives a hardened criminal so many years in prison, and then these bleeding hearts come around a few years later and let him out and he starts all over again.

If you want this civilization of ours to go on, if you want law and order to go on, you have got to stop sob-sousing about crooks, you have got to protect the honest citizen. The honest citizen is not being protected, and all this talk about being kind to criminals is just a lot of nonsense. You have got to stand up and be counted. Are we men or are we a lot of sob-soused bleeding hearts?

**Hon. J. Harper Prowse:** Honourable senators, the question is: are we men or are we gods? Unfortunately this Government does not have the responsibility for making laws that would be applicable to gods. We are men, and men who are in prison are men. If they have been more human than us, if they have been found in weaknesses where we have escaped detection, this does not give us the right to stand here and deny those who would climb closer to God the right to make the attempt. I had not intended to speak tonight following my friend Senator Hastings until I heard the impassioned plea by Senator Beaubien.

Two kinds of murder? Obviously the honourable senator was talking about the Laporte murder and about the