

[Translation]

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

Mr. Charles A. Langlois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Science and Technology): I ask, Madam Speaker, that all questions be allowed to stand.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Shall all questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CORRECTIONS AND CONDITIONAL RELEASE ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed from Tuesday, May 12, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lewis that Bill C-36, an act respecting corrections and the conditional release and detention of offenders and to establish the office of Correctional Investigator, be read the third time and passed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I wish to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 33(2)(a), because of the ministerial statement, Government Orders will be extended by 34 minutes beginning at one o'clock p.m.

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Madam Speaker, I am privileged to be here today to speak on this very important piece of legislation, Bill C-36, an act respecting corrections and conditional release and detention of offenders and to establish the office of correctional investigator.

It is an important piece of legislation not only for what it does but largely for what it does not do. We have a chance, in looking at this piece of legislation, to determine where we are going as a society with respect to our corrections.

This act will replace the Penitentiary Act, the Parole Act and, in the 19 year use of the Inquiries Act, to authorize the office of the correctional investigator.

When I say that we look at this bill in conjunction with other legislation, I mean just that, that we are not really

Government Orders

making the strides we should be making with respect to corrections. This bill only gives us half of the package.

On saying that, I want to congratulate the member for Scarborough West, the member for Scarborough—Rouge River and the member for Moncton from our party who have done an excellent job on this bill and have brought this bill to the piece of legislation we see today. They worked hard, presented a great many amendments, quite a few of which were accepted by the government. I want to thank the government for its conciliatory attitude.

The reason I say that this is only one-half of a package is because we still do not have the sentencing reform. We were told that this was to be a complete overhaul of corrections, parole and sentencing. This is what the government told us we would be getting, yet we do not have the sentencing reform, which is really the first part of the whole question. When in court the first question dealt with is sentencing, then corrections is dealt with, then parole is dealt with. But we do not have the first part of the package. Therefore, we are dealing with the second and third parts without having the first part.

• (1100)

As the member for Scarborough West said in his excellent speech before the House, this bill was introduced on November 4. There has been plenty of time for the government to compile what it wants to bring forward on the sentencing reform and bring it before the House with the common sense understanding that we would be debating the whole question at the same time or at least within a close proximity of time. Instead of just dealing with corrections and parole, we would be dealing with sentencing as well.

I feel that is not too much to ask of the government, yet we do not have it and I feel that is extremely unfortunate.

What we are going to have to do, of course, when we get the first part is then review the second and third parts again in light of what we have received with respect to sentencing reform.

However, at this point, because we are supportive of this bill, I do not want to dwell only on the questions that create problems, but I want to deal with a couple of areas, as well, where I think we have made some improvements. There are two areas with respect to corrections and parole where we really have to give a lot