

Private Bills—Divorce

by a royal commission, in view of the psychiatric evidence which ought to be considered. People who are outside the fields of medicine and psychiatry are almost totally unfamiliar with such subjects. However, since no provision of this kind has been made, at least it would be a step in the right direction if sex offences were given consideration by the special committee to be set up.

Mr. Daniel McIvor (Fort William): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the minister a question. What does he consider the chief cause of murder? Is it hunger for gold; is it jealousy, or is it drinking parties? My experience is that the last is the most serious. If the government licenses the liquor business, then how can it condemn a man when, under the influence of liquor, he commits a crime?

Mr. Garson: I shall be glad to answer my hon. friend when I close the debate.

(Translation):

Mr. J. W. Dufresne (Quebec West): Mr. Speaker, I have been listening with great attention to the speeches delivered this afternoon on the subject now before the house. I was particularly taken by the interesting facts, statistical information and, more generally, by the very able fashion in which the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton) expressed himself on this subject.

As for me I have no intention of discussing this matter from a legal point of view, since I am not a lawyer. I simply wish to discuss it in a somewhat logical way.

I see that the hon. Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Lesage) finds it funny that there can be one member sitting here for Quebec city who is not a lawyer. A precedent has been set. The working people of my constituency have wished it to be so and they have not requested the minister's permission.

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I laughed because my colleague, unintentionally, poked fun at lawyers when he said that, not being a lawyer himself, he felt in a position to discuss the matter in a logical way.

Mr. Gauthier (Portneuf): Somewhat logical.

Mr. Dufresne: Mr. Speaker, I know that I am not as fortunate as the minister, not being a university graduate, and that I may have made a slip during my remarks. However, I do intend to continue and I hope that the hon. members who have found my remarks rather funny will now show a little more tact.

(Text):

Mr. Speaker: As it is now five o'clock, the house will consider private and public bills.

(Translation):

Mr. Dufresne: Mr. Speaker, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. Speaker: It is not necessary for the hon. member to do so. When we resume the debate interrupted by the study of private and public bills, we will proceed from where we left off a moment ago.

(Text):

PRIVATE BILLS

CATHERINE MILLER MARY HARRIS
DAWSON COUTTS

Mr. W. G. Weir (Portage-Neepawa) moved the second reading of Bill No. 12, for the relief of Catherine Miller Mary Harris Dawson Coutts.

Mr. Speaker: There are several divorce bills on the order paper, running from No. 29 to No. 88. Will they all be taken in one motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Is a motion for second reading of these bills agreed to?

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, just before the motion for the second reading of these 60 divorce bills is agreed to, I should like to say a brief word. As *Hansard* does not have the capacity for recording the emphasis members sometimes try to make, I should like to emphasize that in this brief moment we are called upon to give second readings to 60 divorce bills.

Were it not for one significant fact I would suggest that the house should give consideration to what it is doing, and take these bills one by one and do our job on them more seriously. However, the one significant fact to which I refer is that a special committee has been set up by this House of Commons under Your Honour's chairmanship, which is studying the rules of the house. As the result of a discussion which took place in the house a month or more ago, it has been agreed that in that committee we shall give consideration to the question as to whether or not we can find some other way to handle these divorce applications. My hope is that that committee will grapple with this problem, will realize the fact that no one in this House of Commons likes dealing with divorce in this way and that we shall find some other way to handle this matter.

So long as the matter is under discussion by Your Honour's committee on the rules of the house I will not take any time on these