

*Criminal Code*

victims of some crimes feel their sufferings are being slighted and that Canada is treating them as lesser human beings.

Moreover, there is a risk that with two equally well documented crimes, one falling into paragraph 1(a) and the other falling into paragraph 1(b), the latter could fail to reach the courts due to an erroneous, narrow view of the Crown prosecutors as to what international law permits.

I am sure all Canadians would agree that any legislation dealing with war criminals should be of a quality sufficient to ensure that all and any war criminals found in Canada, regardless of when the crime took place, or of the criminals religious, ethnic or racial origin, are brought to trial in Canada under Canadian criminal law. In other words, a crime is a crime and a victim is a victim regardless of when and where the crime occurs.

The Government argues that the current wording of the Bill in fact meets these stringent requirements. For the sake of justice, I hope my interpretation is wrong and that the Government's interpretation is correct.

In closing, let me again congratulate the Government and both justice critics from the Opposition Parties for their cooperation and for bringing a "made in Canada" solution to this very important problem.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap):** Madam Speaker, it is an honour to take part in the third reading debate on Bill C-71, an Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Immigration Act, 1976, and the Citizenship Act. It is an honour because this legislation represents the culmination of a great deal of work by many, many people. At the same time, this legislation will bring about the opportunity for justice to be served against those responsible for the heinous crimes against humanity committed over 40 years ago.

It is important that we never forget these crimes or allow the perpetrators of them to continue to live freely. We must always be vigilant in order that the racism, hatred and anti-Semitism that was the foundation of Nazi ideology cannot be repeated. Such crimes against humanity are unimaginable still to this day, yet they must be imagined and remembered. It is, therefore, a tribute today in passing this Bill in the House of Commons to the memory of the millions who were murdered at the hands of war criminals.

It is never too late and, although the Canadian Government under previous administrations has a shameless record in this area, I would today recognize the work of my colleague, the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson), and the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan), who have had a continuing interest in this area for many years. As well, the former Minister of Justice, the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), deserves full recognition for appointing the Commission of Inquiry into War Criminals back in February, 1985. It was this Commission, ably led by Mr. Justice Deschênes, that has been the focus of our work for the past two and a half years. His report is a landmark in the area

of war criminals. It served as the basis for this important legislation.

• (1100)

As well, the work of Mrs. Alti Rodal which was commissioned by Justice Deschênes should also be recognized today. Her study was both comprehensive and eloquent. We still urge the Government today to act upon Mrs. Rodal's request and the recommendation of the Deschênes Commission and release the entire study *Nazi War Criminals in Canada*.

One final group has been crucial to the passage of this legislation. I would like to give recognition today to the North American Jewish Students' Network. This group provided hours worth of meticulous and concise research, not only for my colleague, the Hon. Member for Burnaby, but also for all other committee members. Special recognition should be given to Mr. Ken Narvey who worked tirelessly in order that this legislation would be passed. I know that all Members of the House appreciate the work he has done.

Canadians have witnessed many, many times the trials in recent years. We all feel very strongly that justice has been meted out in appropriate terms as individuals who committed heinous crimes have been recognized in terms of the dastardly deeds they committed.

The question often raised is this. Will the Holocaust ever happen again? I think it is only fair that when we look around the world today, whether we look to Africa, Asia, South America or the Caribbean, we find there are crimes being committed against humanity in these parts of the world. It is important more than ever before that Canada not become a hide-out, a safe haven for those individuals who have been involved in perpetrating these heinous crimes.

Finally, we must now look to the future. This legislation will be passed shortly. The work will then be turned over to the special team assembled at the Department of Justice. It is important that we have reached this stage in the legislation. The New Democratic Party calls upon the Minister of Justice, as was strongly recommended by Mr. Justice Deschênes in recommendation 81-c, to ensure that ample financial resources be given to this team in order that the work it carries out is thorough and complete.

Clearly, after 42 years of inaction we owe it not only to the memories of those who have died but also to their families who have suffered in surviving.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the third time and passed.