

Parole and Penitentiary Acts

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): In my opinion the nays have it. I declare the motion lost.

Motion No. 17 negatived.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The next question is on Motion No. 18 standing in the name of the Hon. Member for Burnaby. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): In my opinion the nays have it. I declare the motion lost.

Motion No. 18 negatived.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): I remind Hon. Members that the vote on Motion No. 18 disposes of Motions Nos. 19 and 20.

The next question is on Motion No. 18A standing in the name of the Solicitor General. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): In my opinion the yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.

Motion No. 18A agreed to.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The next question is on Motion No. 20A standing in the name of the Solicitor General. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): All those opposed to the motion will please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): In my opinion the yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.

Motion No. 20A agreed to.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby) moved:

Motion No. 21

That Bill C-67, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out line 23 at page 10 and substituting the following therefor:

“commencement of a hearing”.

Motion No. 22

That Bill C-67, be amended in Clause 5 by striking out lines 29 to 37 at page 10.

He said: Mr. Speaker, these two motions deal with the very important issue of what information must be provided to a prisoner before his or her hearing on parole or before his or her hearing with respect to a decision on gating. As it now stands, the Bill would allow vital information, key information, with respect to this decision to be provided to an inmate or a prisoner, or any other person, by the board before the commencement of, or during, a hearing held pursuant to the provisions of the Act. It is simply not good enough to suggest that a prisoner come into a hearing—such an important hearing on parole or one with respect to gating—and not have any information until he or she literally arrives at the hearing and is told: “Look. Here is the information that we intend to share with you”. I say “share” because the National Parole Board has this euphemism of “oral sharing” of information during hearings.

The amendment in Motion No. 22 would delete paragraph (e). The combined effect of these two motions would be to ensure that prisoners are entitled to any information which will be the basis of a decision of the National Parole Board before the hearing and that they have that information at least 15 days before the hearing. I think that that is an elementary and natural form of justice. I hope that the Government will recognize the importance of this particular proposal.

• (1920)

I would like to point out that the provisions with which we are dealing, and particularly “gating”, have been described by