

Private Members' Business

The Deputy Speaker: Will somebody tell the minister it is normally expected that the minister would wait and reply to questions and comments. I thank the minister for coming back.

• (1725)

Mr. Silye: Mr. Speaker, I posed the question. He is a busy man. Maybe he is going out to fix up our victims rights. Maybe he is going to do something about the bill.

Getting back to the point I was making about the two prisons where Bernardo and Homolka are held, a tunnel connects the two. According to the charter of rights and freedoms, he is going to be able to have conjugal visits with members on the female prison side. This is not punishment.

Mr. Hoepfner: It's ludicrous.

Mr. Silye: It is ludicrous, I agree with the member from Manitoba.

I guess I need another preamble for my question. I believe that we should make violent criminals—that was my comment and now to the question for the—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Silye: We are laughing and joking, but it is not really funny.

This man has been the justice minister for two years. All he wants to do is register firearms at a cost of \$400 million and impose a bunch of ludicrous infringements on private property and carrying on like that, rather than doing what really is important which is toughening up the criminal justice system, making our streets safer and actually punishing people who commit crimes.

It is wonderful to talk about the causes of it. It is wonderful to look at how we can help these people to not commit these crimes. Those are solutions that are of a much longer term. In the short term the punishment should fit the crime and parole should not be given to violent offenders.

Why not make violent criminals serve their full sentence without possibility of parole? Why not get tougher with the criminals, show that the justice system is tough, then look at the rights of the victims and give them the satisfaction that at least the government of this land is looking after their rights and not just the criminals rights.

Mr. Rock: Mr. Speaker, may I first of all make it clear that I intended no disrespect to the hon. member when I left the Chamber for a few moments. I am sure he knows that and I trust that the Speaker knows it as well.

In response to the point raised by the hon. member, I take it that what he is advocating is a balance in the approach. We must take steps to strengthen the criminal justice system. We must also be sensitive to the rights and the interests of the victim. I believe that is what we have reflected in the steps we have taken as a government.

We have introduced in Bill C-68 mandatory minimum penitentiary terms, the longest in the Criminal Code, for those who use guns in crime. That is a very significant punitive element in the criminal law. I know that it has the support of the members of the third party.

At the same time in Bill C-41 we have recognized the role and the rights of the victim in the strengthened restitution provisions. We have changed the section 745 procedure so that they are guaranteed a role in such applications. In Bill C-42 we have made it unnecessary for them to go to court, for example, when—

[Translation]

The Deputy Speaker: It being 5.30 p.m., it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 81, the proceedings on the motion have expired.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

[English]

PARLIAMENT OF CANADA ACT

Mr. John Solomon (Regina—Lumsden, NDP) moved that Bill C-314, an act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act (other pension income), be read the second time and referred to a committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to say a few words at second reading of my private member's bill, Bill C-314. I made a few comments when I introduced it but for members in the House today I want to remind them that this bill is an act to amend the Parliament of Canada Act (other pension income). The bill requires all pension or retiring allowance payments received by a member of Parliament which are paid from public funds to be deducted from the member of Parliament's sessional allowance payments.

The following occupations fall under the definition of a public or retiring allowance paid from the public purse: a member of the legislative assembly of a province or a provincial parliament; a member of the public service of Canada or a province; a judge of any court in Canada; a member of the Canadian forces; a peace officer; an employee or officer of a crown corporation of the crown in right of Canada or of a province; an employee or officer of a board, bureau, commission, council, institute or agency of the crown in right of Canada, the crown in right of a province or a municipality; an employee or officer of a publicly funded school, school board, college, university or hospital; an employee or officer of an organization that the board by law orders to be an equivalent organization, crown corporation, agency of the crown, or college, university or hospital.

The bill is a reverse double dipping bill. There are two definitions of double dipping. The first is members of Parliament with pensions taking government jobs while still drawing their parliamentary pension. This definition has been primarily