

Criminal Code

amendment of this kind. I am sure that when this legislation passes it will be commonly known as the Fulton bill. I hope it will, because it will be a tribute both to his discernment in choice of a subject for presentation as a private member, and also to his persistence in furthering the legislation. In this instance hon. members will undoubtedly feel that the Minister of Justice and the government, having accepted the suggestions that have been made, having sought the advice of the provincial attorneys general and others, and brought in further amendments to strengthen the section, have co-operated effectively with the private member who introduced the measure. This is an excellent demonstration of the manner in which our system of parliamentary procedure should work.

Amendment (Mr. Garson) agreed to.

Section as amended agreed to.

On the title.

Mr. Fulton: There is a consequential amendment to the title, arising out of the fact that the amendment moved by the minister has just been adopted.

First let me express to the committee, and through the committee to the house, my appreciation of the support which has been given to this bill. I do not believe it is an exaggeration to say that when the House of Commons passes this bill it will have made a great achievement in the interests of Canada—and it is not the achievement of any one member or of any particular group of members. I express my sincere appreciation of the generosity of those who have spoken in pointing out that I introduced the bill in the first instance, but it represents an achievement of the House of Commons as a whole. All hon. members have united in a spirit of friendship and of urgency to accomplish something of great benefit to our whole country. If it were necessary to do so, I believe one could substantiate this statement by reference to letters that all hon. members have received. I have received many communications from humble men and women, parents who were desperately concerned with the welfare of their children, and conversations I have had with those parents moved me greatly. I know the deep anxiety with which mothers and fathers have viewed this matter, recognizing in it a frightful threat to which their children have been exposed. It was an exposure which was beyond parental control, because these crime comics were available in such large numbers and in so many places. I know that this anxiety of parents has played a large part

in securing the extraordinary degree of unanimity with which this proposal has been received in the house.

In the past I have not hesitated on occasions to be a severe critic of the government. I take this opportunity to say, with all the sincerity I can muster, how much I appreciate the fact that on this occasion we have been working together for a common purpose. I express unreservedly my appreciation of the manner in which the government, particularly the Minister of Justice, have set themselves the task of accepting and improving upon the bill offered, and facilitating the passage of the legislation. I am profoundly impressed by the great and abiding strength and inherent fineness of our democratic system, in the light of the fact that this proposed legislation has been accepted and the purpose achieved, not, as I say, by any one group or individual using pressure or force in any form of manoeuvring, but quietly and co-operatively in the ordinary course of parliamentary procedure. In that procedure hon. members on both sides of the house, those holding official positions, such as the minister, and the private members, have worked together to produce the desired result. It makes me proud to be a Canadian, and doubly proud of the privilege of being a member of Canada's House of Commons, where this immensely powerful aspect of the democratic process has been demonstrated—and all this in marked contrast to the type of procedure which is not the strength but rather the weakness of countries governed by other methods.

As a private member may I presume finally to speak for all private members in all parts of the house—and I believe I do—by saying that we are immensely cheered, not only by the acceptance of this legislation, but by the fact that even at a time when governmental problems weigh upon the House of Commons and the country, my colleagues and I in the house should have been given an opportunity to contribute something positive to the country we all love so much, and which we are all so anxious to serve and to preserve as the homeland of decency and right; for this is really the purpose of the bill.

I move, seconded by the hon. member for Lake Centre (Mr. Diefenbaker):

That the title of the bill be amended by deleting therefrom the words in the parenthesis, "portrayal of crime."

Amendment agreed to.

Title as amended agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.