

*Government Orders*

I noticed the government has chosen to get rid of one of those institutions and that is the Law Reform Commission. I am personally hoping, as some relatives in my family are also hoping, that it does not get rid of the other institution and that is the member for Parry Sound—Muskoka.

Perhaps the member for Parry Sound—Muskoka might use his influence, which I am told is considerable with the Prime Minister and the government, to get that other institution, the Law Reform Commission, back in. He might consider that.

There are a couple of points that I would like to raise. As the government has said, this bill in fact takes what were almost full criminal offences where an appearance had to be made in court, even though they may be minor transgressions, to make it more like what happens in the provinces with a traffic ticket basically. That is a good idea and long overdue. We in the committee want to have a close look at the regulations. We do not have the regulations here so we do not have a list of what we are expected to see.

• (1740)

In the paper the government put out today called *The Ticketing Scheme for Minor Regulatory Offences, a Backgrounder*, it mentioned that it has identified minor offences under federal law or regulation for which it is responsible and which will be subject to the Contravention Act. It mentions Agriculture Canada, Atomic Energy Control Board—we might want to look at that carefully—Canada Ports Corporation, Communications Canada, National Defence, Environment Canada, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Specifically we want to look at Environment Canada offences because the trend in criminal law and in public opinion is to make tougher penalties for environmental offenders, not easier penalties. We want to have a look at this and make sure this does not go against that particular trend.

It would be similar, as I understand it, as to how some of the ticketing schemes work in the provinces. I might say parenthetically it may mean that we will now have to pay our tickets at the airports. They will actually come

after us. That is what happens in the provinces. We will want to hear evidence from the provinces as to how these schemes are working and how they collect the money. We can learn, it seems to me, from how the schemes are working in the provinces. We want to see some evidence of that at the hearings in committee on this particular bill.

I do not know whether the minister will be speaking on this bill in the House. Obviously she has not spoken so far. The minister had a press conference about an hour or an hour and a half ago. I was there. She released a statement and discussed this bill in the context of what she called the protection of society week. She talked about bringing this bill in because she wanted to modernize the law and protect society through a number of bills.

I replied at the press conference, without trying to be too cheeky. I said: "There is a difference between law and order and lawn ornaments". A lot of this is lawn ornaments. A lot of it is hype and publicity by press release. In fact there is not a great deal of substance.

We are thankful that there is contraventions legislation but it is a long overdue bill. It is not the deepest of bills. We are thankful that there is a bill dealing with jury selection, but it was the Supreme Court of Canada that told the government to get on with that bill. We are thankful that there will be in this law and order week the Extradition Act, but we have had that for a while.

The latest development in extradition is the concept of an international criminal court. That is how to deal with Libyan terrorists and so on, but the government has not talked about that anywhere. I will later on in the week, I hope.

I want to come back to the notion that the minister put forward, as was mentioned by the hon. member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys. The minister talked about this bill at the press conference, this bill we are debating here today. She said it would modernize the law. If she really wants to modernize the law, I will tell her a couple of things to do. Do not get rid of the Law Reform Commission because the Law Reform Commission was one of the vehicles for getting the new ideas to modernize the law.