

should be supported by all Members on all sides of this House. I simply indicated in my comments that this Bill was introduced in February this year by a Liberal Government and that the initiatives are Liberal initiatives. It is the Liberal criminal law agenda that is being proposed now by the Conservative Party. Yes, the Progressive Conservative Party, when it was in Opposition, stalled, delayed and insisted that the Bill be cut and separated and refused to give immediate consent. Had the Conservatives not done that, the Bill could have been passed at an early stage and stiffer penalties could be in place.

I can assure the Hon. Member and the Government opposite that we in the Liberal Party will not use the stalling and delaying tactics that were used by the Conservative Party simply for the purposes of gaining political brownie points when there is important legislation that must be passed for the benefit of Canadians from coast to coast.

If we wanted to, Mr. Speaker, we could stall this Bill.

Mr. Speyer: Try it.

Mr. Nunziata: But no, we will not do so because we believe in this Bill. We believe it is important and should be passed immediately. We are prepared to pass it today if we can get the agreement of the New Democratic Party and the Government.

Mr. Gauthier: Why did the Government wait until today to pass it?

Mr. Nunziata: The Member indicated that the Bill should be non-partisan, and I agree with him. I wish to point out that a few months ago when that Hon. Member was in Opposition, he stalled and delayed when the Bill should have been passed.

An Hon. Member: Prove it.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Duplessis)—Science and Technology—Establishment of GATIQ—Government position; the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone)—Youth—Minister's area of responsibility. (b) Press statement attributed to Minister; the Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker)—Environmental Affairs—Canadian Wildlife Service—Request for re-examination of budgetary cut-backs. (b) Terminated positions—Request that Minister table job descriptions.

Criminal Law Amendments

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 1984

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Crosbie that Bill C-18, an Act to amend the Criminal Code, to amend an Act to amend the Criminal Code and to amend the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Act, the Excise Act, the Food and Drugs Act, the Narcotic Control Act, the Parole Act and the Weights and Measures Act, to repeal certain other Acts and to make other consequential amendments, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have an opportunity in the latter part of today to rise and make some comments regarding Bill C-18, an Act to amend the Criminal Code. I plan to keep my comments brief to enable this very critical piece of legislation to get into committee quickly where it should have been some time ago, and to allow necessary public reflection on some of the critical parts of this Bill. I refer specifically to the need to have representatives of the Canadian Bar Association, to have provincial Attorneys General and to have various groups representing civil liberties who have indicated their interest on commenting on sectors of the Bill appear before the Committee.

I want to make a comment or two about the procedure. I have been listening to Members of the governing Party and to Members of the Liberal Party on the need to move with haste particularly on the most critical section of this Bill, that is the section that deals with amending the Criminal Code as it relates to drinking and driving.

The past Liberal Government had years and years in which to introduce a Bill that addressed the problems associated with drinking and driving if that had been a major priority for it. The Liberals were in power for many many years. There is no reason we could not have been debating this Bill six months ago if it had been a real priority. On the other hand, I say to the Government that I feel a little uncomfortable about the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) coming to the House of Commons the day prior to the Christmas recess and saying that he has a Bill that the Government would like to pass in the next few hours.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that this is not a simple piece of legislation. This is a piece of legislation that will touch either indirectly or directly the lives of every Canadian. It has to do with changes to the Criminal Code, amendments to the Weights and Measures Act prohibiting fraudulent replacement of a motor vehicle's odometer and all the related problems associated with car sales. It includes amendments to the Combines Investigation Act. It amends the Narcotic Control Act, and it also amends the Food and Drugs Act. This Bill is not a simple piece of legislation that ought not to receive any public scrutiny. The committee is the place for it. Today, on