

Criminal Code

One aspect of Bill C-50 which gives me some concern is that it would oblige the judge to grant an adjournment of one day only where the accused indicates that he wishes to be represented by counsel. Sometimes this may be insufficient. The effect would be to deprive the judge of the discretion to grant any reasonable adjournment when an accused wishes to retain counsel and has been unable to do so up to the time of his appearance.

The last aspect of the matter which I think is worthy of consideration is that the system of legal aid varies very considerably from one province to another. This is something which should be discussed by the Attorneys General of the provinces and by the federal Minister of Justice

(Mr. Turner), because this bill proposes an amendment to a federal statute. Before the federal government enacts such legislation in the form of an amendment to the Criminal Code there should be good and sufficient prior discussion with the provinces which also have a major constitutional responsibility in the administration of justice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business has expired. It being five o'clock p.m., this House stands adjourned until Monday at two o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At five o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.
