

must be over 14 years before he is brought to court for any offence. Those younger than that are looked after by the equivalent of the Children's Aid Society.

The treatment of young people is very important. I have a son who is a law student. He has been lucky enough to get a job in British Columbia again this summer with another law student from there. They take out about 20 young people from a correctional institution, rather bad delinquents, and go mountain climbing and sailing with them. By the way I don't think that's a very bad summer job. He reports that these young people are fine as long as they are kept busy, as long as they are given a little bit of praise and companionship. They have put them on the buddy system. I would like to see more of this in our institutions instead of just seeing to it that young people have enough to eat.

We have made many attempts to change the Criminal Code and the Juvenile Delinquents Act. The latter is a very old act. It was first brought in when I graduated from university, and that wasn't yesterday. Attempts were made as recently as 1971 to amend it, but the bills died in the House. These were small amendments along the lines of today's bill.

I am interested in supporting this bill and in referring it to a committee, but I realize there is no standing committee at the present time to which it could be referred. I also realize that it is the intention of the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) to bring in a comprehensive amending bill in the fall. We should strongly support the present bill, and I urge that it be considered as one of the clauses of the more comprehensive bill that will be dealing with the penal code in a general way, and with the Juvenile Delinquents Act in particular. I strongly support the bill in principle but I think the matter would be better handled through comprehensive legislation in the fall.

**Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane):** Mr. Speaker, first I want to congratulate the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard) on presenting this bill. I am sure it reflects the sentiments of most members of the House, particularly since it is aimed at young offenders.

When people become adults they are considered more responsible for what they do. Younger people, often due to immaturity, or just for kicks, sometimes will do things they should not do, and we should not consider them completely responsible for doing them. Sometimes conditions of society are a factor in young people doing certain

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things, but their record should not remain against them all their lives to impede their progress in society.

The hon. member for Simcoe North is a member of the medical profession. He knows there are different ways to treat a patient. You can treat the cause or the symptoms. Sometimes you have to treat the symptoms when you don't know the cause. This is rather like what his bill proposes, to treat some of the symptoms of our society. But even better than treating the symptoms is getting to the cause through the use of preventive medicine. It is better to get an injection of Salk vaccine than later having to cope with the disease when it takes hold.

Similarly in the case of young people, society must get to the crux of the original cause of misdemeanors. Young people will make mistakes, but those mistakes should not be held against them for the rest of their lives. While we are getting more and more permissive in modern society we are becoming less and less responsible for the actions of young people. In modern society discipline at home is disappearing. That trend has to be reversed because it is changing the whole structure of society.

Governments cannot help by legislating against such root causes, but they can help by fostering an attitude that does not cater to permissiveness. If in certain government departments we have people who want to side with revolutionary ideas, with marginal opinions, in opposition to the opinions of the silent majority, then we contribute to this permissive society. We have seen that kind of thing in some of the programs that came from the Department of the Secretary of State in years gone by. It is such situations that the government can help.

I certainly agree that the government has to take some kind of action as suggested by the hon. member for Simcoe North, but as pointed out by the previous speaker it is the intention of the government to do just that in a comprehensive bill. For this reason I would not want the hon. member to think I would talk out a bill of his to prevent it coming to a vote. I simply point out that there will be an all-encompassing bill this fall, and it will be voted on by the House.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger):** Order. The hour appointed for consideration of private members' business has now expired. It being five o'clock, the House stands adjourned until Monday next at two p.m.

At five p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.