

**Madam Speaker:** The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the other questions stand?

**Mr. Stevens:** Madam Speaker, once again I would ask the parliamentary secretary if he can offer the House any satisfactory explanation why question No. 2,042, relating to the Prime Minister's world tour a year ago, has not been answered. It is shameful that the people of Canada cannot learn some of these facts.

**Mr. Smith:** Madam Speaker, I will take note of the representation made by the hon. member. He should be here tomorrow and he may be pleasantly surprised.

**Mr. Stevens:** I will be here.

**Mr. Pinard:** You will not regret it.

**Madam Speaker:** Shall the remaining questions stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### CRIMINAL CODE

#### AMENDMENTS WITH RESPECT TO SEXUAL OFFENCES AND THE PROTECTION OF YOUNG PERSONS

The House resumed from Wednesday, July 8, 1981, consideration of the motion of Mr. Chrétien that Bill C-53, to amend the Criminal Code in relation to sexual offences and the protection of young persons and to amend certain other acts in relation thereto or in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, it is always interesting to see how urgencies can evaporate in this House. I recall that when we were dealing with Bill C-53 last July, the government urged that the bill just had to get to committee in July or else Parliament would have to continue sitting. Then, of course, the postal situation intervened and I never saw such scampering in my life as there was to get Parliament to adjourn. Everyone knows the results of what happened in that period. From July until now there has been no movement on the bill but, of course, priorities change.

As we come to the end of another session, it has been decided that it is appropriate that the House give some consideration to Bill C-53. It is so long since we last discussed it that I am afraid it will be very difficult for hon. members to recall what Bill C-53 is all about. In the time allotted to me today I shall try to indicate to the House what the bill is about just for the purpose of framing the debate. It involves some major amendments to the criminal law.

### *Criminal Code*

I am conscious that in this debate I am following a very distinguished counsel, the hon. member for Saskatoon West (Mr. Hnatyshyn). In the early part of the debate he made a speech in this House that will ring through the annals of Parliament as an indication of his great depth of understanding of the criminal law, an understanding such as is rarely seen in this House. He is a counsel so pre-eminent that he was one of the very few in the province of Saskatchewan—a Conservative under New Democratic Party government—who was able to convince the powers that be that in the year 1973 he should be made a Queen's Counsel.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** I think his pre-eminence at the bar should not be forgotten. He is a learned lecturer, a practitioner of great repute and all who rise to speak in this debate are conscious that they speak in the shadow of the fine parliamentary performance that will grace the pages of *Hansard* forever and which will be of great assistance to the committee when it considers this bill.

My friend in the New Democratic Party from Regina said that they gave him a Queen's Counsel because they thought he might then leave town. He did; he was elected to Parliament where he has distinguished himself. I think Parliament is the richer for his presence.

Having unburdened myself of that accolade I want to turn now to a discussion of the bill. As the title states, this is "An act to amend the Criminal Code in relation to sexual offences and the protection of young persons". These matters have absorbed the attention of members of this House for some time. The efforts of the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen) on behalf of young people and their relationship to the law have been outstanding. I think this bill is an important step in advancing the cause that he has championed in this House.

To enhance the protection of children, the bill will create new offences resulting from the sexual exploitation of young people by adults and against child pornography. In addition, other changes will assist in the prosecution of child abuse cases and cases of abduction of young children in custody disputes.

● (1520)

There are really four broad principles contained in this bill. The first is the protection of the integrity of the person. In a society like ours, it is a fundamental principle that the criminal law, which is a federal responsibility in terms of law-making, speaks to the protection of the integrity of the person. I guess the reason and the purpose behind laws, and the reason we have Parliament, police, and courts, is so that people will not only find equality before the law, but also protection so that they can move freely about their business providing they do so within the law. That principle really means that every person in our society is entitled to live free from violence and free from fear, as much as is possible. That is the purpose of those instruments of justice and the administration of justice about which I have spoken. In terms of the purpose of this bill, it is