

I do not want to go on too long on this bill. I will be the only speaker for our party because we want to get it into committee and we want to be able to talk about it. We want to have this idea pursued and developed and in place as quickly as possible to take advantage of the summer season. I want that idea to be able to be discussed as well in committee.

With respect to the young offenders, the government has said that it wants to have it heard in youth court wherever possible. I think that is important. I think we have got to use the youth courts. One government, the Government of Saskatchewan, has a problem, however. It would only agree to the legislation if the province could hear the young offenders in ordinary court because it had no mechanism for these offences to be heard in youth court.

I feel that is unfortunate. I would hope that all provinces would stop this transfer, this idea of having young offenders going to adult ordinary courts.

I also want to make a point. I make this not to detract from this legislation which I think is basically a good idea. This idea of what we are talking about today, of ticketing these regulatory offences to relieve the work of our court system, was first put forward in 1976 by the Law Reform Commission, which now has been terminated by the government. I know the Law Reform Commission is not a part of this bill, but I want to say to the government that here is a prime example of what the Law Reform Commission was able to do by bringing forward this idea.

People have said the Law Reform Commission was great, but how many bills are a result of the work of the Law Reform Commission? We are seeing one today as a result of the Law Reform Commission that was brought forward 16 years ago, four years after the Law Reform Commission came into being. That took a long time, but yet the idea was germinated in 1976 and now it has come to reality in 1992. It is here thanks largely to the member for Parry Sound—Muskoka and to the Law Reform Commission. It is tragic that we are losing this very important agency which is germinating these ideas.

By losing the Law Reform Commission, we will be with Zimbabwe and Bangladesh, the only three countries in the Commonwealth that do not have a Law Reform Commission. Now that puts Canada in a pretty bad light as far as I am concerned.

Government Orders

What we have done is to say that we do not want this type of original thinking. If the government is going to get rid of it then we are not going to have this thinking. We have had it to this point and the \$4.8 million of the Law Reform Commission's budget has been well served as far as this country is concerned.

With respect to this bill, I want to say that we have the Criminal Code which will deal with wrongful acts that violate societal standards and decency in humanity. We also now have these items that are ticketable or can be proceeded with as summary or indictable offences.

I do hope that we will have a good discussion of this in committee. It is my intention to have witnesses called and we could hear this in committee as quickly as possible. It is important to have more discussion on it.

Basically, as I have said, it is a step in the right direction. It is going to create a positive presence. I would say that we have to be able to review the Orders in Council so that the latitude which this bill gives is not abused.

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my hon. friend from the NDP who is allowing me to rise briefly before he speaks. I wanted to speak as the minister responsible for tourism enthusiastically in support of the bill introduced by my hon. friend from Parry Sound—Muskoka.

I have received dozens of representations asking that something like this be done. This not only affects all of the purposes that were described earlier in the debate, but it will help tourism in important ways because there are a number of public places where people do not feel safe. This will change the nature of our waterscape and landscape making them safer and quieter.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this bill which my party will support. But like my friend, the member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys, the critic for the Liberal Party, we want to call some witnesses and ask some questions at committee stage.

I noticed that the hon. member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys has mentioned that this bill came from ideas first put forward by the Law Reform Commission in 1976, a Canadian institution. He also mentioned that the member for Parry Sound—Muskoka had advocated the bill, if I might say another Canadian institution almost.