

*Courts Amendment Act*

All of these amendments are deemed to have come into effect in Manitoba on July 1, 1984. This will permit the filing of all legal documents and so on without any confusion in the court process. That is the purpose of this Bill.

I would like on this first occasion on which I am speaking to the House as Minister of Justice to make a few general points as to the way I hope to approach the responsibilities of this office.

**Mr. Deans:** Did you clear this with Erik?

**Mr. Crosbie:** I clear everything I do with Erik. However, I am not saying what Erik that is. I have an Erik in my office. As a matter of fact, the Hon. House Leader for the New Democratic Party often gives me an earache.

**Mr. Deans:** The ache you give me isn't in my ear.

● (1110)

**Mr. Crosbie:** I am not going to comment on what happens to other parts of the gentleman's anatomy. They are all unmentionable.

This is my first occasion to address the House as Minister of Justice. I want all Hon. Members to know that I am following in a tremendous tradition. Sir John A. Macdonald was our first Minister of Justice. I do not say this to make any other Members of the House nervous; it just happens to be a fact that Sir John A. Macdonald was the first Minister of Justice of this country. The Hon. House Leader for the NDP would be interested in the fact that one of that Minister's first accomplishments was legalizing trade unions in the country. He brought in the legislation that made it possible for trade unions to function in this country.

We are a caring Party. We are a Party that is responsible for the legitimization of the entire trade union movement.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** One hundred years before the poor House Leader for the NDP appeared on the scene, we legalized trade unions in this country. He would not be here today if we had not done so.

**Mr. Deans:** I beg your pardon? What has that to do with anything?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, my predecessor, Sir John A.—I am Sir John C., he was Sir John A.—was responsible as well for the formation of the Northwest Mounted Police. These were two of his accomplishments while he was Minister of Justice.

It was a Conservative Minister of Justice, Sir John Thompson, who, from 1885 to 1892, codified the Canadian criminal law. The Criminal Code was brought in under his tenure as Minister of Justice. Of course, he became Prime Minister as well if only for a few hours or a few days.

It was a Conservative Minister of Justice, Davie Fulton, who of course is still a distinguished member of the Canadian

community living in British Columbia, who brought in the first Bill of Rights for Canada in 1960. It was a Conservative Minister of Justice, Senator Jacques Flynn, a member of the other House, who initiated the criminal law review in 1979. The Hon. House Leader of the NDP will be interested in the fact that that was the first fundamental review of the Criminal Code undertaken since the Criminal Code came into effect in 1893. That review is still under way. The Law Reform Commission of Canada has had much to do with the Criminal Code review that is under way and with the changes that were introduced in the House some months ago. Many of these changes will be reintroduced.

If it is permissible, Mr. Speaker, I might just outline some of the things to which I hope the House will attend while I am Minister of Justice over the period of the next three or four years.

**Mr. Waddell:** Conservative Ministers of Justice also hanged Louis Riel.

**Mr. Crosbie:** I knew someone from the other side would bring that up. I believe this year is the 100th anniversary of that sad occasion.

Shortly, Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing some changes to the Criminal Code which I hope the House will find possible to pass quickly. These will be non-controversial changes and many of them will be procedural changes to the Criminal Code which are long overdue.

After the Christmas break, we will be introducing other amendments to the Criminal Code in more controversial areas. For example, the area of soliciting and the problem of prostitution will have to be dealt with by legislation brought before this House within the next few months. We are now waiting for the report of the committee of Mr. Paul Fraser which was appointed some months ago to investigate and report in connection with the fields of prostitution and pornography.

We have received a report from Professor Badgley on child abuse which is another area of concern, of course, to Canadians. If any Member would like a copy of that 1,300-page report, we can supply that Member with a copy. We will have to deal with that area.

The area of hate propaganda will be dealt with and those amendments will come after Christmas as well. Provisions or new suggestions with respect to impaired and drunken driving will be introduced to the House. These are all issues that will hopefully be dealt with by Hon. Members of this House in the next six months, and I hope that we will make progress during the next year. Other amendments to the Criminal Code will be brought in after that. Hopefully, if the plan works, we will have a completely revised Criminal Code in place in Canada at the end of the next three or four years. This will require much attention and work from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.