

*Supply—Solicitor General*

will present the minister with the name of this person and family and will outline the brief to him. I trust he will give this matter careful consideration and see whether anything can be done to assist them.

**Mr. Mather:** Mr. Chairman, I rise to ask a question rather than to make anything in the nature of a speech. I should like to ask the minister to consider, if he would, the reform of the bail system of Canada as proposed in my own bill, No. C-4, as well as several other places.

This bill is quite in line with legislation established last year in the United States. In brief, to quote from the explanatory notes of the proposed legislation, it would reform the present bail system in Canada as our American friends did about 12 months ago. It would effect this reform in the following way. The bill would assure that all persons, regardless of their financial status, should not needlessly be detained pending their appearance to answer charges under acts of the parliament of Canada, when detention served neither the ends of justice nor the public interest.

The measure I propose, and which I would ask the minister to consider, would permit poor people awaiting trial to be released without bond and would thus eliminate the arbitrary cruelty in the present bail system. It would permit them to be released without bond, in the absence of cash, having in mind certain other precautionary and amending steps. The present bail system requires that there shall be cash in all cases before bail can be granted.

The system of release without bail which would be established by the bill I propose would be limited to instances where the offence is not punishable by death or life imprisonment and in which the judge deems the defendant trustworthy. I would ask the minister to take into consideration the reform of the bail system in line with the general terms and principles of my proposal.

**Mr. More:** First of all, Mr. Chairman, I should like to congratulate the minister on the presentation of his estimates. I have found him to be deeply interested in the problems that he faces in his department, and I have also found him most co-operative in dealing with questions that are raised by constituents and presented to him. I believe the evidence presented by hon. members today in the representations that have been made to the minister indicates the feeling amongst all

members of the house, that they have a sympathetic ear to which to present vigorously the problems of people who come under the jurisdiction of the legal system. Hon. members know that the minister will give his best consideration to analysing their suggestions and incorporating those which seem to offer better hope in the future.

The ministers' co-operation in regard to settling the feelings of despair, perhaps, in regard to the changing picture of the R.C.M.P. establishment, especially in my constituency, was deeply appreciated. I know that the visit he undertook during the course of a busy schedule, and on rather short notice at the time, was well worth while and he made a good contribution to better understanding. For that we owe the minister our deepest thanks.

● (8:30 p.m.)

I have listened to all the representations made today about those who run afoul of the law and are incarcerated. I shall not repeat the representations that have been made but I should like to bring to the attention of the minister one matter that bothers me. I confess that I am no expert in this field and perhaps do not know all the details I should know when bringing the matter to the minister's attention. I know it costs a great deal of money to keep a person in an institution, and sometimes when I see the small budgets of the John Howard and Elizabeth Fry societies as well as those of other agencies engaged in the work of fulfilling what seems to me to be a very pertinent and desirable service I wonder whether we should not look more deeply into the objective of rehabilitation and treatment of the inmates. It seems to me that the people who come out of prisons are virtually put out on the street and not a great deal is done to help them. Prisoners on parole often fall back into crime again. There is no doubt that often there is a great deal of co-operation being given by the families concerned to assist the parole board and other authorities. Paroles are being granted to prisoners so as to give them a fair chance to remain out of trouble and to fit them into society. There are also prisoners who serve their sentences without being paroled. It seems to me that very little is provided for them.

We all know the prejudice against anybody who has been in trouble with the law and who has served time. It is difficult for him to obtain employment and to rehabilitate himself. It costs us \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year to keep them in security and to try to instil in them a