

Criminal Code

with family allowances when unions come to fruition. It is there in the person of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer) when he is in a position to issue pleasing housing statistics showing us just how many bedrooms exist. It is there in the presence of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) because when two people come together certain financial benefits flow to the person who makes out the income tax return. Then, sir, if the union is productive, even more financial benefits flow to that union.

So this bedroom is getting to be pretty crowded. The Minister of National Health and Welfare, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport are all there. Even the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) is there, because on occasion people straggle into the wrong bedrooms and certain parties have to put their cases before judges of divorce and matrimonial courts appointed by the Minister of Justice. So the Minister of Justice is also in that bedroom.

Then what about the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen)? From time to time ministers of immigration of this country have been indiscreet enough to venture into weighing the merits of persons born in Canada as opposed to the merits of persons born abroad. When the minister of immigration does this on rare occasions and gets his knuckles rapped, as he should, he is surely then in the nation's bedrooms and counting those going in and the number of bodies coming out. Therefore I suggest that the statement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is a very great oversimplification of what is the actual situation in Canada. I have listed some half dozen ministers who have an interest in the bedrooms of the nation. This number is somewhat more than the number of ministers present this afternoon, for example, under the roster system.

I shall come to the problem in a moment, but first I would like to comment on certain statements made in the debate yesterday by the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto). He gave an historical sketch of the sources of morality and their development over the ages. First he has to be put aright on an historical fact. It was Julian the Apostate, not Hadrian, who attempted to turn back the clock and revert to the worship of various pagan gods. The hon. member also seems to have forgotten the first half of the great Judaeo-Christian tradition that is part of our heritage. He has forgotten the moral teachings in the Old Testament before the Christian era, where

certainly much was said about the goings-on at Sodom and Gomorrah, when the finger was shaken at Noah for incest with his daughters. You can name almost any part of the Old Testament and find that these things have been taught us in our formative years as examples of immoral behaviour. What the hon. member seems—

Mr. Otto: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. gentleman permit a question?

Mr. McCleave: I would be delighted to accept a question.

Mr. Otto: Is the hon. gentleman suggesting that the tribes of Israel composed a civilization at that time?

Mr. McCleave: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker; I did not catch the question.

Mr. Otto: Is the hon. gentleman suggesting that the tribes of Israel could be interpreted as composing a civilization at that time?

Mr. McCleave: I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if any other group as small in numbers has been as successful in directing the course of civilization I have not heard of it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. McCleave: For a people living in a very small area and often beset by civilizations ten or even a hundred times their size, I think they showed remarkable perseverance, a persistence to live and an ability to impart to us a great deal of our heritage. I hope that answers the hon. member's question.

Having listened to the hon. member, I gather that he has derived his notions of morality from the later days of the classical civilization of Rome and Greece. I point out to him that certainly in what might be called their Spartan period or their early years of formation, their standards of morality were very high indeed and were directed to the preservation of family and state rather than giving full and unfettered rein to the permissiveness of individual behaviour. This is the point I am making.

● (3:00 p.m.)

What is the whole criminal law about if it is not to enact something that imposes sanctions against what we regard as behaviour that is anti-social or against the interests of our society? There is no point in trying to argue that every individual is free to use his own moral yardstick. He is not free to go