November 22, 1967

Something like this ought to have been done years ago. We should let the government know how the House of Commons feels about this motion and, if the house is agreeable, I submit that we ought to pass it.

Mr. Grant Deachman (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Ricard: Do not kill the motion.

Mr. Deachman: With respect to this valuable suggestion we, on this side, consider that its subject matter ought to be sent to the justice and legal affairs standing committee.

Mr. Churchill: But that is a stalling operation.

Mr. Deachman: In a moment or two I propose to move a motion which will have that effect.

Before moving my motion, however, I wish to compliment the hon. member for York-Humber (Mr. Cowan) for bringing before the house a subject of considerable interest, well worth the consideration of the standing committee on justice and legal affairs and worthy of legislation by this house. The idea is not new. Material on it is available from the library, and hon. members who wish to find out what has been done in this regard by parliaments around the world may wish to consult a book entitled, "Restitution to Victims of Crime", by Schafer. The book was published in London in 1960 and gives a summary of legislation of this kind that is in existence around the world. I find that it deals chiefly with civil legislation and that actually there is little legislation to provide for compensation for victims of crimes of violence. That is so until one considers the legislation, or the proposals for legislation in Great Britain. The agitation for it began in about 1959 and continued, in the form of white papers and study papers, until 1964.

In my hand I have a little white paper prepared by the House of Commons in Great Britain entitled, "Compensation for Victims of Crimes of Violence". I do not have time to go into details this evening but I am sure that the standing committe will wish to view this material when discussing this valuable notice of motion. We are following in well

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established footsteps if we give consideration to a piece of legislation similar to that proposed in the house in Great Britain.

I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette):

That the said proposed motion be deemed to have been withdrawn and that the standing committee on justice and legal affairs be empowered to consider and report upon the provisions thereof.

Mr. Churchill: You are not the least bit progressive. I am surprised at the Liberal party. This is stalling.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): Is it the wish of the house to adopt the said motion.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask what the business of the house will be, and I direct my question to the Minister without Portfolio, the representative of Newfoundland in the cabinet. I welcome him back to the house. He will now have a chance to make a maiden speech.

Mr. Granger: I thank the hon. gentleman for his welcome and for the opportunity of making a maiden speech, which probably will be a record for its brevity. The business for tomorrow is this. We shall continue the debate on capital punishment. If that is concluded, the schedule will be as outlined by the house leader yesterday, the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act, the post office legislation, the Industrial Development Bank Act and the Canadian National bill.

Mr. Knowles: May I ask a question? If we conclude second reading during the day will we continue with the committee of the whole on capital punishment tomorrow?

Mr. Granger: I think the answer to that is, yes.

Mr. Churchill: The minister is a good deal more definite than his colleagues are.

At six o'clock the house adjourned, without question put, pursuant to standing order.