

*Inquiries of the Ministry*INTRODUCTION OF SECOND OMNIBUS
AMENDING MEASURE

bail, has the minister given consideration to the early introduction of amendments to the Criminal Code with reference to the bail section?

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that I have to remind the hon. member that the administration of justice and the task of interpreting the law as it now stands is the responsibility of the Attorney General of Quebec and the crown prosecutors in Montreal. As for the reform of or amendments to the law of detention before trial, and bail, it is the intention of the government to introduce as soon as we can a new, omnibus bill—not quite so omnibus—on wire tapping, bail and other allied matters.

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Justice. Can the minister assure the house that the legislation governing fire-arms will be ratified before the next winter carnival?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, has the minister in mind a change in the right of a magistrate or judge to deny bail when he believes that in the interest of justice the individual who has applied for bail ought not to have it?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I think the right hon. member is tempting me to comment on a current judicial proceeding—

Mr. Diefenbaker: No, I am not.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):—and he would not really want me to do that.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I was not thinking of any present case at all, Mr. Speaker. I am simply asking the minister, does he have in mind changing the law so that the present discretion which rests with a magistrate or judge in the granting of bail will be determined by statute?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my view is that the law on bail is in need of a good deal of amendment.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The minister is speaking out of both sides of his mouth.

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, the minister has said that another or a second omnibus bill to amend the Criminal Code will be prepared soon.

An hon. Member: It is not omnibus; it is ominous.

Mr. Woolliams: In view of this, does the minister intend making a statement on motions to tell us what he has in mind as far as amendments to the Criminal Code are concerned?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I think that the next time the estimates are discussed in the Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs would be a good time to discuss that matter, and I would be glad to do so.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister indicate whether one of the proposed amendments in the second omnibus bill will include changes to the first one, that has not yet been disposed of?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We will certainly get a simpler name for the benefit of the hon. member.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): A supplementary question to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. In view of the rather general agreement which has for some time existed with regard to the outmoded use of corporal punishment, will this matter be included in the second omnibus bill to be presented by the minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

PUBLICATION OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): May I direct a further question to the Minister of Justice and ask him whether, when he brings in what I suppose one might call his "minibus bill" containing various amendments to the Criminal Code, he intends to include an amendment to the section dealing with obscenity, in order that pornography may not be published as it is being disseminated today, which by reason of judicial interpretation, is actually not subject to law?