

I think this is a good move, because the chairman of the board indicated to the committee if he had more members on the board, panels of two could be sent to the various provinces rather than have the board sit in Ottawa. Those panels could visit the various institutions of the country and interview inmates on the spot. As I say, this is a good move. It was further pointed out to the committee that putting people on parole means they are not a charge on the public. They contribute to our economy because they secure employment. I shall therefore have no hesitation in voting for this section of the bill.

Another matter falling within the jurisdiction of the Solicitor General has already been referred to, namely the expunging of criminal records. I do not know whether this matter will be dealt with in the proper way. In the last parliament the justice committee heard evidence on this subject. The Solicitor General has set forth his ideas on this question in a memo. He intends, by way of pardon, to expunge criminal records. As I understood it, it was not thought necessary to physically destroy these records, but they would be put someplace where they would not penalize a person in later years. I recall the case of a young man, a constituent of my friend the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. MacInnis), who applied to serve on the municipal council, but it was found he could not do so because of a criminal record going back many years. This certainly penalized him. I have read the Solicitor General's memo, and hope he will take action in this regard.

**Mr. McIlraith:** This legislation will be coming forward. Work is being done on it.

**Mr. MacEwan:** That is what I am suggesting should be done, Mr. Speaker. I am not saying that the Solicitor General, who has just come into the chamber, has not done his work; all I am saying is that this is a good step forward. Whether it is based on a pardon being given, or however it is done, it will be important to the people of this country. Canadians with a criminal record should not be penalized because of that record; they should be able to obtain employment the same as anyone else in this country. I am glad to hear the Solicitor General's comment. This is progressive legislation and in it the Solicitor General will work hand in hand with the Minister of Justice. These are two gentlemen who administer justice in Canada.

Another matter, and this was mentioned by the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr.

### *Criminal Code*

Woolliams), is that of bail. He stated that it should be possible for those who are poor, as well as those who are rich, to obtain bail. I have seen instances in the courts where, although there were good and reasonable grounds for believing that a man would appear for his trial, bail was set at such a high figure it was almost impossible for the accused to raise it. I think that before long the Minister of Justice should look into the aspect of the law and bring forward changes in the code.

Several other matters were raised by the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. MacGuigan). Many other sections of the Criminal Code need to be amended in order to bring it up to date. I shall not go further into the clauses of the bill except to repeat that the speech of the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Sullivan), and other speeches which have been made, indicate that many of the clauses of the bill require the members of this house to examine their consciences.

The minister dealt with this question in his remarks. This is all the more reason the bill should be divided into its various parts. I make a final plea and ask the minister, who is a forward-looking Canadian in the younger age group when compared with other ministers opposite, to again take this suggestion that the bill be divided to the cabinet and his caucus. It has been pointed out that the bill will go to the committee and will be reported back to this house. Then, members will have an opportunity to vote on each and every clause. But the catch is, as I understand it, when third reading is given to Bill C-150 members will have either to say they are in favour of the bill or are not. They may have grave reservations about various parts of it. I do not think this procedure puts members in a proper position. I am glad that we in the official opposition will have a free vote on the Criminal Code. This is important because the code concerns every Canadian family and goes into every household in this country. We are in favour of a free vote. Let the government adopt the same attitude and make the necessary changes to this bill.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull):** Mr. Speaker, Bill No. C-150 will certainly leave its mark in the history of Canadian parliament and for several reasons, the most important being the fact that it will show the Canadian people that Canada has come to a turning point in its history and that it is able at last to recognize