

increasing sale and distribution of hard drugs, with terrible consequences for young people. I am trying to face up to the fact that we do have organized crime which is involved not only in drug trafficking but in gambling and other serious offences. Although the claims with respect to the number of cases of subversion and espionage are exaggerated one hundredfold, I am trying to face up to the situation in that respect, to see how far I can go, if any distance at all, in voting for a bill which will give the police the right to wiretap under certain conditions because the needs of the people as a whole in certain cases are more important than the right to privacy of individuals.

If the speech by the hon. member for Louis-Hébert were the only one made on behalf of the bill I feel that under no circumstances could I vote for the bill. Yet I am prepared to vote for the bill under certain conditions. What are those conditions? They are that the police can only wiretap given the fact that they know or suspect that certain types of very serious offences are being committed or are likely to be committed. I believe that we have to specify because I think we have to take responsibility for the types of criminal offences on which we would permit wiretapping to take place. Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the interjection of the hon. member just now, but if it had no more validity than her speech or earlier interjections I think I can quite legitimately ignore it.

● (1550)

I do not believe—and it is not because I have anything against the RCMP or the provincial police of Quebec or the city of Winnipeg police or any other police force—that we should give any person an unrestricted right to do anything he wants to do. If we are going to permit wiretapping, and I for one am prepared to accept that wiretapping under very limited conditions is necessary, then I want the police to be required to appear before somebody with responsibility in order to ask for permission. I am not sure whether there are 600 judges as the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) said or whether there are 800 as I think the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) said, but surely if there are between 600 and 800 judges in this country it ought not to be too difficult for the police in any area to get permission fairly quickly, on an emergency basis, from one of them. I do not think it is too much to ask of Canadian judges, through the passage of this bill, that maybe once a year one of them would be awakened in the middle of the night to deal with a request for permission from the police to proceed with wiretapping. I do not think that is too serious, Mr. Speaker. I am not enthused, and that is putting it mildly, by any suggestion that the power to grant this permission should be extended, however. I am not enthused with the suggestion that the Attorneys General should have this right.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the 20 minutes allotted to him under the rules of the House have expired. However, he may continue if there is unanimous consent. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is agreed.

Protection of Privacy

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, as I said a moment ago I am not enthused by the idea that we give that right to the Attorneys General, even though there are now three provincial governments which are NDP and in which there are NDP Attorneys General. I am even less enthused that it be extended to an agent or agents. It seems to me that when we give such people the right to permit the police to wiretap without a hearing, that we are extending the right so broadly that in fact it vitiates the whole purpose of this bill.

I want to conclude by saying one word to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang), Mr. Speaker. I want a bill which will prohibit wiretapping by people who are not government officials, that is, police or other Crown officials. I want a bill which will regulate the way in which the law enforcement agents can use wiretapping. I think it is a disgrace that up until now we have not had such a law. I want to tell the minister that I am not prepared to vote for a law which will permit the minister, the Liberal government and the Liberal Party, to tell the people who are concerned about civil liberties that we are fighting for a law which prohibits or regulates or limits wiretapping and, on the other hand, find that the bill has so many exemptions and exceptions that anybody who wants to wiretap can do it. If that is the choice, Mr. Speaker, I, for one, am not prepared to let the minister get the political credit for a bill which in fact does not control wiretapping.

● (1600)

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, Bill C-176 concerning wiretapping is very important and serious for all Canadians, whom we must protect in every way we can.

A few minutes ago, I listened carefully to the speech of the hon. member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Morin); I congratulate her for such a frank explanation of the situation existing not only in Quebec but also in all other provinces. We know better the Quebec situation than the one in other provinces because Quebec is the province we live in. As to what the member for Louis-Hébert says about subversion in the province of Quebec, it is not partly true, it is perfectly true; besides, she dares calling a spade a spade.

Mr. Speaker, for some people wiretapping is a touchy issue. As for me, I say very frankly that I am not afraid at all of bugging devices. Besides, I think my Parliament office phone has already been bugged. It makes no difference to me that everybody should know that I never intended to overthrow established order or justice by violence or revolution.

Therefore Mr. Speaker, one is much less afraid of bugging devices if he has nothing to fear about his behaviour. That does not mean we recommend the use of bugging devices in all Canadian homes, no, but as far as suspects are concerned, people making divisive statements, wishing to overthrow all that exists in Canada and to break down the system—as we hear them say—I believe that for the protection of people, we should take the necessary action to know where those people are going. We do not want to intercept conversations of honest people, who live normally, but those who want to destroy society, Mr. Speaker. It