

*Government Orders*

decides to politicize or to try to lean in a certain direction to accommodate vested interests, I can assure the House that this bill is going to be a problem.

I want to flag this right now because it is vital. I think our party is in agreement with what the government is trying to do, the spirit of trying to relieve the workload of the courts to simplify the justice system, as the hon. member for Parry Sound—Muskoka has said, in boating violations on lakes and things that are obvious.

•What are we trying to do here? We are trying to divide it into two different categories. For those who are committing a crime against society, against morality, a crime against the person, these matters will still have to go through the Criminal Code to summary or indictable offence. That is the way it should be.

However, in themselves some acts are not really unlawful. Driving a boat at high speed on a lake ordinarily would not be an offence, but because people are on the lake, because there are other boaters on the lake, this is an offence because of public will. It is a situation of inter-communication of people and in their best interests people have to respect the rights of others. Because of the interweaving of society and the rights of people, these offences have to be dealt with.

Illegal parking on Department of Transport property is an offence. We do not want them to be criminal offences. We do not want the stigma there, but they are still against the best interests of society and the best interests of other people and have to be dealt with.

There are also a lot of acts, a lot of regulations which are vital and which are going to become more important. They are not just minor annoyances. When I talk about that, I talk mainly about the concern with respect to environmental dumping offences for which many minor ones appear on the list now. The fear is that the department lawyer may be under heavy pressure from his or her minister to add serious offences to the ticketable list when it should remain as summary or indictable offence only.

In talking to the Department of Justice on this it says that it does not think this is going to be a problem, that my concern is just theoretical, and that the system will not allow this to happen. However the system can allow

this to happen because what becomes a ticketable offence is, as I have stated, to be determined by Order in Council.

If the government decides that it wants to do it for some reason even though it is against the best interests of society, it can add it to the list so that an offence can be a ticketable offence when in fact it is a very serious dumping offence.

There has to be a perspective and we have to watch this very closely. I would suggest to the hon. member for Parry Sound—Muskoka, the Minister of Justice and the parliamentary secretary who is here today that there be a review process given to the House of Commons on these Orders In Council, the way it is being done with the regulations of gun control under Bill C-17, that these new ticketable offences to be dealt with outside of the Criminal Code and with the option to be ticketable rather than preceding with summary or indictable offence, be given to the House of Commons for a period of time to review so that we can look at it and judge whether this is in the best interest.

• (1730)

I say that because I think all members of this House have an interest in making sure that this is done properly. The government has come forward with this idea, albeit not quickly. It was first started in 1985. First reading of this bill was on December 9, which was four or five months ago, but still, the spirit is there. I think it is important to maintain that spirit. I think we have to continue with that.

The government also says that this is going to be revenue neutral, but there will be money saved by making better use of the court's time and resources. I think that is a fair statement. I do not think we want to go too far. I think we want to keep it in perspective. I think the hon. member for Parry Sound—Muskoka, the minister and the parliamentary secretary, all members of government, all members of this House, would want the same thing.

The only thing I am afraid of is that without the parliamentary review, with the ability to do this so easily through Order In Council, it may get out of hand. There is not that check and balance I would like to see.