

● (1730)

Despite the fact that no appeal lies to the Supreme Court of Canada on sentence per se, the specific principles in many cases set out by provincial courts of appeal are broadly similar from province to province. By the declaration of these principles some attempt is made to limit the discretion of the sentencer further than that provided by the law itself. Sentencing judges, of course, have differing views on the purposes of sentences. Some judges sentence with a view to "doing the utmost for the offender" in a forward looking way, while others go strictly by some real but unstated tariff, fixing the sentence in relation to a retrospective look at the offence committed, without too much consideration to the future prospects of the offender.

To balance these differing approaches, appellate courts sit to consider too severe or too lenient sentences in an effort to strike a balance. The efforts of these appellate courts in this regard are aimed at ensuring that the objectives of sentencing in a particular case are consistent with the over-all aims of sentencing, which themselves should be congruent with the objectives of the criminal process and the criminal justice system itself.

Efforts in improving the quality of justice in Canada are continuing on the part of ministers and officials responsible for the administration of justice, and on the part of the judiciary. The development in recent years of sentencing conferences and seminars by organizations of judges are further evidence of the fact that the judiciary is keenly concerned with providing the highest quality of justice to Canadians. We in Canada have been well served by an independent judiciary of which we can be proud and which we hope will continue.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this discussion and to thank the hon. member for bringing this important matter to the attention of the House and to the attention of all Canadians who are concerned about the criminal justice system in this country.

Mr. Collenette: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform hon. members that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien) has elected not to make the customary five-minute speech under the provisions of Standing Order 48(2). He feels the arguments have been well made by members on our side this afternoon. Therefore, I would ask that you call upon the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert) to conclude.

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, my objective in bringing this motion before the House was to illustrate, as I think has been well illustrated by all the speakers, that since the various departments of justice in the provinces are responsible for the administration of justice and the application of federal laws, there will be, inevitably, some inequalities. I believe the various speakers have illustrated the steps which have been taken and are being taken to attempt, as far as is possible, to eliminate these inequalities in the administration of justice. I feel that the subject has been well aired. I therefore

Summer Recess

ask, Mr. Speaker, to have the unanimous consent of the House to withdraw the motion.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert) seeks the unanimous consent of the House to withdraw his motion. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Order discharged and motion withdrawn.

Mr. Knowles: Six o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Is there a disposition to call it six o'clock?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): It being six o'clock I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock this evening.

At 5:34 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MOTION RESPECTING SUMMER RECESS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Pinard:

That, when the House adjourns on the day this order is adopted, it shall stand adjourned until Wednesday, October 14, 1981, provided that at any time prior to that date, if it appears to the satisfaction of Madam Speaker, after consultation with the government, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time, Madam Speaker may give notice that she is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice, and shall transact its "business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time; and

That, in the event of Madam Speaker's being unable to act owing to illness or other cause, the Deputy Speaker, the Deputy Chairman of Committees or the Assistant Deputy Chairman of Committees shall act in her stead for all the purposes of this order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. When the debate was interrupted at five o'clock this afternoon, the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) had the floor.

Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The question is as follows: Mr. Pinard, seconded by Mr. Lamontagne, moved:

That, when the House adjourns on the day this order is adopted—

Shall I dispense?