

*Government Orders*

• (1910)

**The Speaker:** I declare the motion carried.  
(Bill read the third time and passed.)

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**CRIMINAL CODE**

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-41, an act to amend the Criminal Code (sentencing) and other acts in consequence thereof, as reported (with amendment) from the committee.

**SPEAKER'S RULING**

**The Speaker:** We are now at report stage of Bill C-41, an act to amend the Criminal Code (sentencing) and other acts in consequence thereof.

[Translation]

There are 25 motions in amendment in the *Order Paper* at the report stage of Bill C-41, an act to amend the Criminal Code (sentencing) and other acts in consequence thereof.

[English]

Motions Nos. 1 and 2 are substantially similar to an amendment previously moved and defeated in committee. Accordingly, pursuant to Standing Order 76.1(5) they have not been selected. The other motions will be grouped for debate as follows.

[Translation]

Group No. 1, Motions Nos. 3 and 4.

[English]

Group No. 2, Motions Nos. 5 to 17 inclusive.

[Translation]

Group No. 3, Motions Nos. 18 and 20.

Group No. 4, Motion No. 19.

Group No. 5, Motion No. 21.

[English]

Group No. 6, Motions Nos. 22, 23 and 25.

Group No. 7, Motion No. 24.

The voting patterns for the motions within each group are available at the table in case members want to check them. The Chair will remind the House of each pattern at the time of voting.

I shall now propose the motions in Group No. 1.

• (1915)

**MOTIONS IN AMENDMENT**

**Mr. Jack Ramsay (Crowfoot, Ref.)** moved:

Motion No. 3

That Bill C-41, in Clause 6, be amended by deleting lines 1 to 42, on page 4, lines 1 to 45, on page 5, lines 1 to 45, on page 6 and lines 1 to 40, on page 7.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert, BQ):** moved

Motion No. 4

That Bill C-41, in Clause 6, be amended in the French version, by replacing line 42, on page 5, with the following:

“de la personne peut être conservé par le corps de”.

[English]

**Mr. Jack Ramsay (Crowfoot, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to present the first amendment of my caucus to Bill C-41. However, before I do so, I wish to point out that my colleagues and I listened very intently to all the witnesses who appeared before the Standing Committee on Justice. We made every attempt to reflect the opinions of these people in the amendments we introduced during clause by clause consideration of the bill. The amendments put forward today are based on the sentiments expressed to us from both the committee testimony and the thousands of letters we have received from all across Canada.

Reform members of the Standing Committee on Justice paid particular attention to the view of the Canadian Police Association on Bill C-41, an authority the justice minister often cites as one of the major supporters of his gun control legislation. In its brief to the committee the Canadian Police Association stated:

Bill C-41 with few exceptions is unwieldy, complicated, internally self-contradictory, duplicitous and, what is worse in almost all of it, completely unnecessary for anyone with any knowledge of or use for the common law heritage of Canada.

It went on to say:

While it would attempt to codify basic sentencing principles eliminating this most basic judicial discretion, at the same time it would bestow huge new discretionary powers to a whole range of persons within the justice system. The common thread in those new powers is that all are to the benefit of the offender in the sense of non-custodial consequences for criminal actions.

Where sentencing reform calls for protection this bill offers platitudes. Where it calls for clarity it offers confusion and outright hypocrisy. It will almost certainly cause the already skyrocketing criminal justice budget to expand further still.

That is what the Canadian Police Association had to say about the bill. I could not have better summarized Bill C-41. We have to wonder why the Minister of Justice so readily embraced the support of the Canadian Police Association for Bill C-68 and totally ignored its opposition to Bill C-41.

Our first amendment is to delete section 717 of Bill C-41. Through this section the government has introduced a program of alternative measures to incarceration. This is the Liberal government's response to overcrowding in Canada's prisons. Rather than deal with the cause of crime, something Reform has been urging the government to do for some time, the Liberals choose to provide alternatives to putting criminals in prison.