

Criminal Code

independently. There was no question of harassing members and trying to support the government. In most cases members of the government took opposite positions to government policy. I think this is a real tribute to the committee system.

I would also like to pay tribute to the members of the steering committee, the member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) and the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Wahn). In no little way were they responsible for the expeditious passage of this bill through the committee. It should be made very clear this bill was not given a perfunctory examination by the committee. We held exhaustive hearings. When considering abortions and homosexual behaviour, we had before us the reports of the Health and Welfare Committee, the Wolfenden report and the report of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee on the breathalyzer test. There were four witnesses who gave evidence on the administrative and technical aspects of the bill. In my opinion this was sufficient and made it possible to have this bill passed effectively through the committee.

The committee realized this legislation was going to affect the lives and welfare of many Canadians. We had to strike a delicate balance. We had to make an exhaustive survey and at the same time get the bill through with dispatch so that it could be translated into legislation for the benefit of Canadians.

As a member of the government and as Chairman of the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee, I was wholeheartedly behind this bill. I felt the government had at last taken subjects such as homosexuality and abortion out of the past and asserted that there should be change. In my opinion, these changes were long overdue. These changes were consonant with the feelings of the great majority of the people in Canada.

Naturally, a great portion of the debate centred around the question of homosexual behaviour and abortion. These are emotional matters. All members have certain definite opinions concerning these matters. The point should not be obscured that this bill also brings forth many other social changes. This is one of the things which has been missed.

I do not intend to go into all the ramifications of the bill. I do wish to point out, however, that there are many desirable changes made by this bill. If you vote for this bill you will be supporting the concept of the compulsory breathalyzer test. We all know that literally thousands of Canadians are

killed on our highways, and millions of dollars in property damage result from accidents involving drinking drivers. Compulsory breathalyzer tests have worked in other countries.

By voting for this bill you are passing fire-arm legislation in the interest of public safety; you are passing legislation to prevent pain and suffering to animals; you are passing legislation which would eliminate or reduce harassing telephone calls. You will be supporting enlightened legislation which will enlarge the rights of the accused unfit to stand trial because of insanity and you will be making provision for greater use of suspended sentences and probation. In addition there are many technical amendments to this bill, especially with regard to the procedure relating to appeals. While still maintaining due process of law for the protection of society, these changes will give the accused individual every possible protection against the authority and might of the state.

In case you are led by my remarks to believe that this bill is comprehensive as it relates to social reform, let me say this is just a start. We must get into the field of bail, electronic eavesdropping and wire-tapping.

The hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert) in my opinion brought forward a most important amendment relating to the sealing or expunging of criminal records. This amendment was rightly ruled out of order, but it had one good result. It brought to the attention of this house the real need for such legislation. I introduced a private member's bill in June of 1966 to expunge Criminal record, but it has yet to be approved. I feel such an amendment will make the government realize the people want and need this type of legislation. I exhort the government to show the same initiative in introducing a bill which will expunge criminal records.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. It being ten o'clock, it is my duty to put the questions to be debated.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the house under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION—
BAN ON TOBACCO ADVERTISING

Mr. H. E. Stafford (Elgin): On May 7, the Board of Directors of the C.B.C. announced