

Criminal Code

legislation which we will consider later. I think this house wants to know why this legislation is before the house.

Under the Interpretation Act, which is also referred to in the explanatory note, all civil servants are appointed during tenure of office or during *bon plaisir*. We would like to know from the minister exactly what is behind the bill.

Mr. Pickersgill: If the minister speaks now he closes the debate.

Mr. Deschatelets: Would the minister tell us if this bill is part of the recommendations of the Fauteux report and to what extent?

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the bill itself is not part of the recommendations of the Fauteux report but I can explain to hon. members who have asked about the reason for the bill that, as they will appreciate, the Fauteux committee in its recommendations put forward a number of suggestions of far-reaching import which will take considerable time to work out. The commissioner of penitentiaries now holding that office is an experienced, skilful and able penitentiaries officer and we are anxious to retain his services so that when the very important discussions with the provinces take place which are to start after September 16, his advice may be available and, more importantly, so that when any program which will result from these discussions and from the agreements that may be arrived at is being implemented—which will take a number of years—we may have available the services of the present commissioner of penitentiaries. If we do not make this amendment so that he may continue to hold that office after the age of 65 we will lose his services in just over a year's time. That is the reason why we are asking that the clause requiring his retirement at 65 be deleted, in order that we may retain his services for whatever period may be desirable after he reaches his sixty-fifth birthday.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

CRIMINAL CODE**AMENDMENTS ADAPTING SUMMARY CONVICTION APPEALS TO SASKATCHEWAN SYSTEM**

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice) moved the second reading of Bill No. S-9, to amend the Criminal Code.

Mr. Pickersgill: Would the minister say a word?

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to make an amendment to the

[Mr. Roberge.]

Criminal Code which has been requested by the province of Saskatchewan. That province, in the session of the legislature held earlier this year, amended their act to change the constitution of their district court. They had previously, as I recall it, 21 judicial districts of the district court of Saskatchewan and by legislation introduced this year they changed that system and provided that there should be one district court for the whole of Saskatchewan to which the various judges of the district courts will have to be appointed subsequently.

Since under the Criminal Code the relevant provision which we are amending here is framed by reference to the present constitution of the district courts of Saskatchewan, it is necessary for us now to amend the Criminal Code to bring it into conformity with the revised district court system in that province. That is the purpose of the bill.

Mr. Pickersgill: As I understand the minister's explanation, it is purely to bring one statute into conformity with another.

Mr. Fulton: That is correct, yes, and in line with the request of the province.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time, considered in committee, reported, read the third time and passed.

NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD**REPEAL OF TICKET OF LEAVE ACT, ESTABLISHMENT OF BOARD, ETC.**

Hon. E. D. Fulton (Minister of Justice) moved that the house go into committee to consider the following resolution:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to establish a board to be known as the national parole board; to provide for the remuneration and expenses of the members of the board; for the appointment of the officers, clerks and employees necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the board; to provide generally for the administration of the act; and further for the repeal of the Ticket of Leave Act.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Rea in the chair.

Mr. Pickersgill: Is the minister going to say something?

Mr. Fulton: The purpose of this resolution, Mr. Chairman, is to ask authority of the house to bring in a bill to set up a national parole board. This is perhaps the most important recommendation of the Fauteux committee. Indeed, the purpose of the constitution of that committee was to study the administration of the remission system in the Department of Justice. It was from that study that there grew the larger study which the Fauteux committee undertook and which resulted in its report, with the very far-reaching series of recommendations that they made.