

Young Offenders Act

I mentioned that I am at a disadvantage because I am not a lawyer. Other than my philosophical worry, there are two technical aspects of this bill about which I am worried. The first was well presented on May 12 by the hon. member for Durham-Northumberland, who is a lawyer and someone I trust in these matters. I know that the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) was not in the House at that time nor is he in the House now, which is a shame, because the hon. member made some good points on this matter. One in particular has to do with the lack of uniformity across Canada of a maximum age defining a young person. For that reason, I trust that this amendment will be adopted.

I think it very important that the administration of justice for young people not be tackled in a piecemeal approach, varying from one province to another. A 16-year-old in one province is the same as a 16-year-old in another province and should not be treated as more mature, more responsible, than an 18-year-old whether in the same province or in another province.

Mr. Evans: Does that line of reasoning not apply to the charter of rights?

Mr. Fennell: Contrary to the Liberal position.

My other technical concern is with clause 11, subclause (1), on the right to "retain and instruct" counsel, and with subclause (4) of the same clause respecting legal aid. I would ask other members in this House, those more familiar with the law, to look at these provisions closely should the government force the bill to committee. I am worried that the act does not take sufficient precautions in making certain that another huge and costly extension is not added to our present legal aid bureaucracy.

I would like to reiterate my point that I am worried for the young people of this country because in some cases both parents have had to go to work, partly as a result of inflation. I am concerned they are not getting direction. I am concerned, too, that there is no morality in their society. When I was a young person I was taken to church on Sunday. I was brought up with some morality and when I committed an offence, no matter how minor it was, my father dealt with me in the way he thought appropriate. It hurt. I did not like it but I respected it. I do not necessarily follow that philosophy today because our own morality has fallen apart.

I plead with this House and with the members serving on this committee to look at this bill very carefully to make certain that they deal with all factors, not just the legal factors. Because our young people are the citizens of this country who will eventually be governing Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles: One o'clock.

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, it is close enough to one o'clock that, if you wish to see it that way, I would appreciate coming back at two o'clock.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At one o'clock the House took recess.

[*English*]

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

Mr. Collenette: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I regret to make this intervention at this time, but I wonder if we could get the unanimous consent of the House to revert briefly to tabling of committee reports, since the hon. member for Eglinton-Lawrence (Mr. de Corneille) was specifically instructed by the committee on northern pipelines to table their report. Unfortunately, due to clerical problems he was unable to do so earlier.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, it sounds like an eminently sensible suggestion, although belated. We concur.

Mr. Knowles: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Agreed and so ordered.

Mr. de Corneille: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the agreement of the House to permit me to make this presentation.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[*English*]

NORTHERN PIPELINES

Third report of Standing Committee on Northern Pipelines—Mr. de Corneille.

[*Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

YOUNG OFFENDERS ACT**MEASURE TO ESTABLISH**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Kaplan that Bill C-61, respecting young offenders and to repeal the Juvenile Delinquents Act, be read the second time