

*Adjournment Debate*

Act for second reading stage and study by the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

Shortly after the Solicitor General was sworn into office, he promised to amend this Act. The improvements contained in Bill C-106 respond to the concerns identified during national consultations undertaken by the Minister with concerned citizens, juvenile justice professionals and provincial administrators. A federal-provincial meeting of Ministers responsible for juvenile justice held in Vancouver on February 11, 1986, also resulted in an endorsement of the proposals. During these consultations, the Solicitor General found widespread support for the principles of the Act, despite some concern about a few of its provisions.

The proposed changes would allow for the publication of the identity of dangerous young offenders. No longer will they be able to hide their identity from the public at large. The changes will allow for consecutive sentences totalling more than three years where a young person commits a subsequent offence while still subject to an earlier sentence. They will ensure that the police have adequate access to records for continuing investigations, will create minimum standards regarding the use of records and will ensure that records are kept in cases of acquittal by reason of insanity. These measures will address current problems in the Act's records maintenance

and destruction provisions, problems that have interfered with effective administration of justice and law enforcement.

The proposed changes will permit the efficient and effective enforcement of probation orders and other non-custodial sentences. There is now no provision under the Act empowering police to intervene quickly and make an arrest when a young offender fails to comply with the conditions of a probation order. This limit has caused difficulties for correctional agencies and courts as well as police. The proposed changes will modify the provisions of current law on the testimony of children and on detention prior to sentencing. They will clarify that any adult or young person involving children in criminal behaviour is subject to prosecution. This is an important aspect of the Bill, Mr. Speaker. They will resolve several technical, administrative and procedural problems. It is my hope that this Bill will receive rapid passage through Parliament with the support of all Parties.

[*Translation*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Nickerson):** The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6:29 p.m.