

most cowardly form of murder. Women and children are left on our pavements, some of them killed. In the riding I represent and in the ridings of Danforth and Greenwood, including Danforth avenue, and in York East also, who have this great problem concerning deaths of the hit-and-run type. There have been a number of children killed by the hit-and-run type of driver on the streets of our cities. If we hope to get a lead from parliament we hope in vain.

In view of the decisions handed down by the court of appeal, the sections dealing with "voluntary statements to the police" should be clarified, but I can find very little in the bill touching on that important matter. The court of appeal has divided on that question and the judges and police have been asking for some clarification of those sections of the criminal code. We should know what the duties of the police are. At present they can hold without bail a man on a charge of which he is not guilty, and in some cases they have extended the law regarding vagrancy. We had, in my opinion, a miscarriage of justice in a city in central Ontario recently.

Where a female is on trial, women should have the right to compose half the jury. That is done in some states of the union, and women on the jury would be far more intelligent than some of the men we have. I am sorry that the minister did not include that in these amendments. I proposed it in a bill not very long ago.

There are minor changes proposed with regard to youthful offenders. Some do not have counsel. I think provision should be made for that, and that, before trial, the parents should be notified. Such an amendment is not to be found in the bill.

The chief constables' association have been making representations to parliament. They are the people who have to enforce the law. The enforcement of the criminal code is not done by the dominion at all but by the attorneys general of the provinces, who in turn leave it mostly to the municipalities, and there is a different enforcement in every province and no uniformity at all in the sentences handed out. Some people are given ten days for an offence for which another man gets thirty days or two years. Some of the savage fines imposed for infractions of the control regulations were ridiculous.

I should like to see some protection afforded to those who hire motor boats, rowboats, canoes and other craft, to ensure that their lives will not be endangered by such craft. Penalties should be provided by an amendment to the code for those who hire out these boats when they are not safe, or to make it

reasonably certain that the applicant can swim or is safe to rent a craft to.

I would refer to section 15 of this bill which says:

Paragraph (c) of section four hundred and forty-six of the said act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

(c) being armed with an offensive weapon or instrument or imitation thereof robs, or assaults with intent to rob, any person.

The words "or imitation thereof" have been added. That puts the person who carries a wooden gun and grabs a payroll out of a girl's hand but does not hurt her at all in the same class with reckless bandits going all over this country seizing payrolls, and bandits who mean murder and get away with it.

I shall not take time to discuss the bill clause by clause. On the 104th day of this session this bill is a disappointment to those who are looking for real law reform all over this country. The law courts are closed for the long vacation. Many lawyers, as well as judges and crown attorneys, are away on their holidays, and no opportunity is given to the chief constables' association of the dominion or the provinces to see what the amendments are. I object to the way we do our work. You ignore the chief constables' association, and the same with the bar association and the judges and magistrates who know the law. They have no opportunity of seeing the bill or of making suggestions to strengthen it. It passes this house and then goes over to the other part of this building to be passed there *seriatim* without much, if any, inquiry whatever. In future the bill should be introduced in the early days of the session and distributed thus.

We should have a legal committee. I have urged that earlier this session, and for twenty years. They have a legal committee in all the provinces. Ontario and Quebec were the first provinces to have one, and then it spread to the other provinces. It is a very good committee, which can sit down and consider the merits of a bill and its principle, hear depositions and see that the law is brought up to date so that we get some real law reform.

I am sorry to see that the recommendations of the women's organizations of our country such as the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire, the Council of Women and other organizations have not received consideration. They have been asking for measures to protect the wives and the families of our citizens, and some of them have made representations with respect to the non-payment of fines by a poor person.