

I am informed that the Saint John area and the Bay of Fundy shore area have been declared disaster areas by the Government of the Province of New Brunswick. At this time federal government representatives, through the Emergency Measures Organization, are in contact with New Brunswick government officials in order to expedite assessment as to the damage to personal and real property in the aforementioned area.

The procedure that is followed in these cases is that the Premier of New Brunswick will ask the Prime Minister to provide federal government assistance, once an assessment is made of the damage in the province to both public and private properties. I understand that financial assistance is provided for uninsured risks in New Brunswick on the following basis:

1. The Government of the Province of New Brunswick must assume the responsibility for the first dollar per capita of damage in New Brunswick, and this amounts to \$680,000.
2. For the next two dollars per capita of damage, the cost of compensation is shared 50 per cent provincial and 50 per cent federal.
3. The next two dollars per capita of compensation is shared 25 per cent provincial and 75 per cent federal.
4. Anything above that, the provincial government pays 10 per cent and the federal government 90 per cent.

That is the formula, honourable senators, for cases of this kind.

#### HALIFAX RELIEF COMMISSION PENSION CONTINUATION BILL

##### THIRD READING

**Senator Norrie** moved third reading of Bill C-78, to repeal an act respecting the Halifax Relief Commission and to authorize the continuation of pensions, grants or allowances paid by the Halifax Relief Commission.

Motion agreed and bill read third time and passed.

#### WESTERN GRAIN STABILIZATION BILL

##### SECOND READING—ORDER STANDS

On the Order:

Resuming the debate on the motion of the Honourable Senator McDonald, seconded by the Honourable Senator Smith (Queens-Shelburne), for the second reading of the Bill C-41, intituled: "An Act respecting the stabilization of net proceeds from the production and sale of western grain and to amend certain statutes in consequence thereof". (*Honourable Senator Yuzyk*).

**Senator Yuzyk:** Honourable senators, I am not prepared at this time to proceed with the debate because certain materials that I have sought have reached me only now, and I am not prepared to incorporate them into my speech. Therefore, with leave, I request that this order stand, although I am prepared to yield to any senator who may wish to speak to Bill C-41 at this time.

Order stands.

[Senator Perrault.]

#### CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL, 1975

##### SECOND READING—DEBATE ADJOURNED

**Hon. Léopold Langlois** moved the second reading of Bill C-71, to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to the Crown Liability Act, the Immigration Act and the Parole Act.

He said: Honourable senators, those of us who have been here a little while will recall that every few years we are asked to consider amendments to the Criminal Code. These amendments are usually either procedural in nature or intended to cure defects in drafting. Sometimes a substantive amendment either creates a new crime or redefines existing criminal acts. These amendments are always important and necessary. Indeed, anything dealing with the criminal law of Canada is important but, in my view, these measures that are introduced and passed every few years can be regarded as housekeeping measures, generally speaking. Some of the amendments which we have been asked to consider today fall in this later category. Others go much further.

It is no secret that we will shortly be asked to consider further measures designed to provide a climate of peace and security throughout our land. The totality of these measures will go a long way to achieving that precious objective. Indeed, the government is committed to a review of all aspects of criminal law, substantive, procedural and evidentiary, to ensure that the law and those closely connected with it serve the needs of our ever-changing Canadian society. As parliamentarians, we have a duty to protect the members of our society from all threats to their well-being, whether the threats be physical or economic. It is our duty to respond quickly and firmly to any development which threatens the ability of Canadians to enjoy a sense of safety in public places and to have no fear whatsoever for the well-being of their children, whether in school or at play. It is our duty to see that our policemen receive the support necessary for the performance of their already difficult tasks. I believe that these amendments are in fulfillment of that duty. I know that all members of this chamber—and not only those of the legal profession—realize the need for some changes in Canadian criminal law. After considering these amendments, I believe that most will conclude, as I have, that these changes will satisfy the expectations of informed Canadians as to what Canadian criminal law should be.

● (1420)

Honourable senators, permit me to outline briefly the import and object of the most important of these objectives, which affect criminal law, both substantively and procedurally. Under these amendments it will become an offence to threaten to commit murder or to assault or to threaten to kidnap where the intended victim is a diplomat or other internationally protected person. I refer you to clauses 2(1), 3, 33 and 34 of the bill.

It will also become an offence to attack the residence or offices of internationally protected persons. The need for such an amendment is obvious considering recent events throughout the world. Canada has assumed certain obligations in this respect under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, and these amendments will facilitate the discharge of our international responsibilities.