

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, March 8, 1968

The house met at 11 a.m.

CRIMINAL CODE

AVAILABILITY TO ACCUSED OF RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. M. L. Klein (Cartier) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-205, to amend the Criminal Code (right to inspect).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Klein: Mr. Speaker, the object of this bill is twofold; first, that all the facts and evidence of a criminal investigation of an accused prior and subsequent to his arrest be made available to him before trial and that such investigation be carried out for the crown and for the defence; second, that any crown attorney or any officer of the crown be deemed guilty of a criminal offence who knowingly withholds evidence which could contribute to the proof of innocence of an accused.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

AMENDMENT TO ELIMINATE ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AS OFFENCE

Mr. M. L. Klein (Cartier) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-206, to amend the Criminal Code (attempted suicide).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Klein: Mr. Speaker, the object of this bill is to eliminate a criminal offence the commission of which can only be committed by a sick person. The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the prosecution of a person who attempts suicide.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROCEDURE RESPECTING ESTABLISHMENT OF PRICES REVIEW BOARD

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In

view of the statement of the Prime Minister in the house yesterday that the government had not yet decided whether legislation would be required to establish the review board the government has in mind in relation to restraining inflation, can the Minister of Finance tell the house when we might expect to learn the decision of the government in this regard, and when we might expect to receive fuller information about the manner in which the proposed board will function and its precise terms of reference?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I ought to answer that question because I will be making a statement on Monday about the proposed board, its nature and how it is to be set up. It is not yet possible to say whether legislation will be required, but the information I have received up to the present indicates that it could be done without legislation. However, I will be making a full statement on Monday.

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Will his statement be made on television or in the house?

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—INQUIRY AS TO CANADIAN EFFORTS TO END WAR

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the statement by the Minister of Finance last night emphasizing what many of us have believed for a long time, that the present international monetary disturbances are due mainly to the war in Viet Nam, what new initiative is the government planning to take or to promote in order that this disastrous war may be brought to an end?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think any government, apart from those directly concerned with this war, has taken more initiatives and attempted to do more to bring this tragic war to an end than the Canadian government. We will continue to do what we can.