

Criminal Code

entitled, or at least, thinks he is entitled to. Inquiries are being conducted. Recently, he was told that his case was delayed for further study and that it will not be possible to pay him before many days. Therefore, this individual is in revolt, although I do not think that he will put into acts what he feels. However, in such cases, I wonder whether an individual would not be almost excusable if he went wrong.

If we want our laws to be respected, we have to make every effort to understand what is human in the individual and to do him justice. The bill purports to improve the provisions regarding bail which some defendants are required to provide. As we all know, too often unfortunately people get for instance, arrested for theft and without their being fully aware of it, bail is paid out for them to secure their release pending trial. This procedure in effect binds the defendants to whoever has bailed them out often without their consent.

Some of the underworld sharks have found their way into our courts of justice and taken advantage of the situation of some individuals who, as the minister indicated, due to their lack of education or their great poverty cannot afford their defence. They have been offered freedom without asking where it came from and they have accepted it only to discover they were indebted to rather unscrupulous characters and very often it was too late, they were already in the pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the amendment to the Criminal Code concerning bail will correct this situation and prevent a man who has been arrested from being deprived of his freedom while awaiting trial for the simple reason that he is poor or cannot communicate with his relatives or friends.

I am convinced that this bill will have very serious consequences on the administration of our laws.

The bill also tends to introduce some changes in the methods of work of our police officers. For instance, we want the police officers in charge of arrests to be very careful in carrying out their duties. We must recognize that there has been some abuse here and I think that police officers should not be asked to exercise their judgment in a way that would tie their hands.

I wonder if in the past police officers have always been sufficiently educated about their duties to carry them out efficiently.

I wonder whether it would not be advisable for universities to give special courses to policemen. In the past, policemen were hired for their physical strength without too much concern about their level of education. It was considered that the size of their muscles was enough for them to be good policemen. But I think they should have a fair amount of judgment. A lot of common sense is sometimes required for the enforcement of certain legislation quite often in urgent situations. Our universities should offer occupational courses for would-be policemen both provincial and municipal.

I would like to make a few remarks on the proposed reforms concerning juvenile delinquency. Much is said about juvenile delinquency which is alarmingly increas-

[Mr. Laprise.]

ing in our villages and our cities. Considering the overall situation and certain reports on the subject, one is led to wonder if the parents should not be arrested instead of the children since quite often juvenile delinquency is the direct result of parents' carelessness.

Means designed to prevent juvenile delinquency must be found. There is no need to enact drastic legislation, but rather we have to remedy the situation through proper education for your young people and, in many instances, for their parents.

As concerns Bill C-218, members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs will have an opportunity to hear and question experts called in to give evidence. This will enable them to appreciate much more accurately what this bill is worth.

I hope that this bill will be referred to the committee as soon as possible and undergo a thorough examination.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): The right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my first words must be to compliment you on occupying the Chair this afternoon, you being a parliamentarian who, through the years, has that love of Parliament which has been evidenced on so many occasions.

I will be frank with you, Sir, when I say I did not intend to participate in this debate. I came into the chamber to listen to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) and I became so interested in what he had to say that certain ideas came to me which I thought I might share with the House.

• (3:00 p.m.)

I am not one of those who say that this bill is a colossus of complexity, to use the phraseology of the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert). It is dramatic, but I cannot argue. The bill indicates a desire on the part of the minister to bring about reform in the administration of the criminal law. While it may be suggested that it could be done all at once rather than piecemeal, that is not the way in which advances are made, particularly with respect to those matters which have an emotional content.

We are today dealing with a problem that throughout the years has been one to exorcise the thinking and emotions of all who have participated in the administration of the criminal law. Too often poverty has been a passport to prison. The poverty of an individual has often contributed to his incarceration because of his inability to obtain bail. Not being able to obtain bail, there is a psychological reaction against him on the part of many people. Even though the individual has subsequently been found not guilty, there is always an adverse reaction to the individual who has served time.

We have representatives of the law in the House. We have a former distinguished member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the hon. member for Pembina (Mr. Bigg). In the discharge of his responsibilities