

*Government Orders*

We are sending out the message to look at the whole package.

It was pointed out to us this is not the only part of it. I welcome people like Monica Rainey and others who came before us and indicated that much of this bill deals with children and the problems they face with individuals who would sexually molest them. A lot of the legislation is directed toward that.

We made changes in the committee. It was pointed out by a number of members, and there was an amendment from the member of the NDP who is in the House saying that the penalty for the individual who intends to commit a sexual offence with a child outside this country is inadequate. I agree. I think she was absolutely correct and individuals came before the committee and indicated that this penalty should be increased. That was done and I think that is good.

This bill is also bad news for child molesters. Those individuals who are convicted of child molestation can now find themselves subject to a prohibition order that can last for life that prohibits these individuals from going near public places and parks where children play. This was something most of us received material about.

It happened in British Columbia and it happens in other provinces where some of these individuals are going from job to job and there seems to be a gap in the law. Under this bill a person can be prohibited from employment that puts him or her in direct contact with children. Who can be against that? How many Canadians can say that is a bad idea? That is a step in the right direction.

We made another significant change at the committee. Someone said: "Never mind employment that puts people in contact with children. What about the individual who is convicted of molesting children and wants to get involved with the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides or Big Brothers?" We covered that possibility as well. We included the prohibition of participating in voluntary organizations and I believe that, too, is a step in the right direction.

I know other members of the House want to talk about this. This is a good day for Parliament. This is a good day

for the committee system of the House of Commons that good legislation can be made better.

It is a bad day for anybody out there who is in the business of molesting children because one standing committee of Parliament is dealing with the question of child pornography, making it a crime for the first time to possess child pornography and that is a good idea. This bill, and particularly that prohibition and some of the changes we made with respect to children giving evidence is bad news for people who are child molesters as well.

• (1220)

When this Parliament deals and comes to grips with such problems this Chamber once again, as it has throughout its history, brings honour upon itself and it makes me very proud to be a member of this House.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak ultimately in support of this much needed bill. I certainly add my voice to that of the parliamentary secretary's in that I think some very good work was done in committee. I said this earlier at report stage.

I might suggest to the parliamentary secretary with the greatest of respect that it is perhaps a little soon to wax lyrical on how this bill, as active legislation, will assist in the matter. It is certainly a much needed bill. There are things we had to have which is why my party is supporting this bill today, but to suggest in any way that it may be flawless is to miss the point of legislation. Unfortunately none of us is blessed with the ability to create flawless legislation and this bill certainly has its flaws.

First and foremost however is the need for the legislation. It really is unnecessary to articulate the horrors surrounding the stalking bill and the need for a stalking bill. There have been deaths in almost every province and region of this country. We heard from attorneys general, police officers and various other sundry groups that those deaths could have been prevented with legislation such as this.

There were imperfections in the process. First and foremost, a major imperfection was the lack of consultation. I am going to address that in a few minutes when I talk about the responses of women's groups in this country to this bill.