

will be necessary. If not, we will have to look further into this matter.

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[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

PROPOSED MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR CAR THEFT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, in light of the fact that we have just finished an omnibus bill covering five phases of the Criminal Code, in light of the fact that car theft is on the increase and because of the large increase set out by Statistics Canada and the Attorneys General of the various provinces, car insurance is very expensive, would the minister now consider setting a minimum sentence under the Criminal Code of one or two years for car theft? At the present time many courts are suspending sentence or treating this offence very lightly.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly take the hon. member's representations into account. I would advise him that to my knowledge I have not received any representation from the provincial Attorneys General with regard either to their amending the substance or the penalties associated with car theft. I will be meeting with them in June and will raise the subject with them. In connection with the hon. member's representation, I would point out to him that in a speech in the House about a year ago the hon. member took me to some considerable task for suggesting a minimum mandatory sentence be used as a remedy in the law as seldom as possible.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Justice would refer to *Hansard* he would see that I asked for a minimum sentence in the last omnibus bill. For the crime of cattle rustling there is a sentence of five or seven years but a suspended sentence for automobile theft. Surely, the Minister of Justice in his own right would consider the facts coming from Statistics Canada. I would suggest to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Mr. Speaker, that he ask automobile manufacturers to change car window locks from the ordinary type that can be opened with a coat hanger to the tumble lock used by more sophisticated manufacturers.

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MANPOWER

USE OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED TO OFFICES—POSSIBLE BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I am concerned about access to information filed with his department, particularly that affecting applicants for landed immigrant status, jobs and unemployment insurance. Does the department intend to require employers to notify Canada Manpower every time they hire someone in

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order that the government can use this computerized information to get the unemployment insurance cheaters, as stated, as well as illegal immigrants?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): No, Mr. Speaker. I have the same interest as the hon. member in protecting the confidentiality of our customers. By the same token, any representations we had in briefs from the CMA and the CLC were to the effect that something should be done in this particular area and the new hiring procedures to help in situations where, for example, there are honest over-payments which later have to be collected. There are a series of other administrative things that I think could be better taken care of if we could get this program into effect. We hope to meet in the future with representatives of the CMA and the CLC to get their further views on this and probably implement something along this line in a pilot project just to see how it works.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. So there will be no mistake about the minister's attitude I would refer him to the weekend press and I am sure his departmental officials have briefed him in that regard. Does the minister deny the Canadian Press story carried in the weekend papers alleging that departmental officials acknowledged that information on manpower, unemployment insurance and immigration applicants could be used by other federal departments, including the RCMP or even outsiders such as collection agencies? I hope the minister will stand up and state that that is not the policy of his department.

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I would commend to the hon. member a very careful reading of section 114 of the Act which I think goes a long way to protect the individual. We would be looking to ways and manners in which that could even be enhanced.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, it is all right for the minister to refer me to a section of the Act but I wonder if he would give the House the assurance that the confidentiality of information given to his department by those who are seeking landed immigrant status or who are looking for jobs or are involved with unemployment insurance will be respected and the information will not be given to the RCMP or, in particular, to outside agents? I do not want to hear anything about any specifics in an Act. We would have to read that. I want information from the minister right now. Can he give us that assurance?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I would again commend to the hon. member the fact that this information has not been made available to outside agencies, the RCMP or others. That has been the policy and it will continue to be the policy.

Mr. Alexander: That is all I want.