

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—External Affairs—Sale of arms by France to South Africa—Canadian position; the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte)—Indian Affairs—National Parks—Quebec—Development of park in St. Maurice Valley—Construction of ski centre in Saint Gérard; the hon. member for Mackenzie (Mr. Korchinski)—Indian Affairs—Special funds to assist Indians and Métis.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members business as listed on today's order paper, namely, public bills.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACTS

AMENDMENT TO PERMIT FINANCING OF PRIVATE MEMBERS PUBLIC BILLS

On the order: Private Members' Public Bills:

October 20, 1970—Second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs of Bill C-9, An Act to amend the British North America Acts, 1867 to 1965 (Financing of private members' public bills).—*Mr. Baldwin.*

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the sponsor of the bill, who is away on parliamentary business, perhaps there could be agreement to allowing this item to stand without losing its position on the order paper.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is that agreed? Shall the item referred to by the hon. member stand and retain its position on the order paper?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

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CRIMINAL CODE

AMENDMENT TO ABOLISH CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont) moved that Bill C-16, to amend the Criminal Code (Abolition of Corporal Punishment) be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to speak at length on this bill. It is my great hope that, in a few minutes, hon. members on both sides of the House will be disposed to refer this matter to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, where it can be dealt with in detail and from which it can be returned to the House for third reading. I think I should indicate clearly at the outset that the subject is corporal punishment. I find that

Criminal Code

when this term is used people often think in terms of capital punishment and are somewhat confused about the subject generally, not because they do not understand what is meant when one talks about whipping and flogging but because the more polite term, corporal punishment, is not as familiar to them.

• (5:00 p.m.)

It is probably true to say that corporal punishment has not been the experience of most Members of this House, at least not in their adult years, and presumably it is not an experience which most of us will ever be obliged to undergo. Yet, it is an experience to which certain of our fellow citizens have been subjected, administered as it is under federal statute and in federal institutions. It should, therefore, be very much our concern to take note of the form of state-instituted violence as it is still practiced in this country, particularly since so many hon. members have put on record their strong opposition to the use of violence to resolve problem situations.

In these circumstances it is disturbing to consider that violence is still being exercised in this country—not often, but on occasion, as a certain form of punishment in connection with what is termed justice. To assist in the realization of what this means I should like to quote one description, which was given a few years ago, of the experience of one man who underwent corporal punishment in one of our institutions. This is from an article which was printed some time ago in the *Toronto Star*, documenting on a question and answer basis the experience of this one individual. The extract reads as follows:

Q. Could you tell us about the strapping and what happened at the time?

A. As to the machine, you mean?

Q. Yes.

A. Well, at the time you go before you get strapped you go up before superintendent there.

Q. Well, yes?

A. And he sentences you to be strapped and you go down to the first floor and they take you down to the machine. When you get there you are examined by a doctor for heart to see if you are physically fit to stand the strapping. Then you are taken and strapped with the machine—what they call the machine. Your hands are handcuffed and your legs are cuffed and also your ankles are cuffed. There is a kidney belt which goes around your kidneys and one around your thighs and there is very little movement you can make while in the machine. Then they blindfold you and pull your shirt over your head and you don't know when you are going to get strapped. Everyone scrapes their feet on the sand floor and you can't hear it coming—it's impossible. The way I understand it, they wait until you relax before they give it to you.

Q. Are you standing erect in the machine?

A. Yes, you are standing on your feet. You are bent over in a leaning position over a crossbar that goes across your middle. While the actual strapping is being administered, there is a doctor there that takes your pulse all the time you are in the machine and afterwards all the officers leave the room and you are taken out of the machine and the blindfold is taken off. If there is further punishment after that like the hole, you are taken directly from the strapping room to the hole.

This description of what might be called a civilized approach to violence surely seems offensive and shocking to the general public as well as to members of this