

*Government Orders*

It means that resources have to be properly assessed to make absolutely certain that those resources result in the proper people being released prior to expiry and as few mistakes as possible made. There will be mistakes. I cannot argue on this side of the House and condemn the government, or any government, when a mistake is made in terms of a person going out and recommitting. As I said a moment ago, it is not an exact science. You do not know. You have not got 100 per cent proof that somebody will not recommit.

The statistics again are very interesting on this point. For example, the figure of those who are in breach of parole, that is for technical reasons, is only 18 per cent. That is a lot but they have not recommitted. Eighteen per cent of those people who are on full parole break the parole agreement and therefore are recommitted.

Twelve per cent reoffend. That is high, I know. If your son or daughter or your wife or your loved one happens to be one of the victims of that 12 per cent, it is damn serious and it is very tragic but I do not know how you establish or write a perfect system in this respect.

I want to see a greater number of National Parole Board psychologists. National Parole Board staff competence has to be improved upon, certainly in the face of allegations of massive patronage appointments of completely inexperienced, unqualified staff. We are going to have some amendments here.

It is not right that somebody who goes out and knocks on doors for a government candidate ends up on the National Parole Board as a temporary or a part-time member of that board, or ex-MPs for that matter who probably have no experience in that field at all.

I do not like the idea. I am not mentioning political parties. It can be and it usually is. When the Liberals are in, they appoint Liberals. When the Tories are in, they appoint Tories, and when my own party is in at the provincial level, we appoint too damn many New Democrats.

I am not being hypocritical on this issue. What I am saying is that people should be appointed according to their ability, their merit. Let us get rid of this old patronage system which has existed for far too long.

I said a moment ago that all parties at all levels do this. It has got to be addressed and can be addressed in this bill. There will be an amendment on that.

There should be a careful review of the details of this complex bill in committee, which I mentioned a moment ago, and the participation of members of all communities interested in and involved in the criminal justice process from a corrections and a parole point of view.

This brings me to a very vital omission in this bill. Quite a bit has been said lately about native problems in relation to the criminal justice system. We are making some progress.

The Six Nations Reserve which used to be part of my constituency now has its own police force and it is doing an excellent job.

• (1330)

We are making some progress on the law enforcement side of it. We are making very little progress on the corrections side of it.

My personal view is that we should be looking much more seriously at a separate corrections system for native offenders. I am not totally convinced yet that it should be a separate system but we should be much more serious and much more vigilant. We should be looking at it much more seriously because I am truly convinced, when you consider that aboriginals in our country make up about 2.5 per cent of the total population and yet 10 per cent of the prison population in Canada are native Canadians, that something is wrong. We are somehow not addressing the problem.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** The hon. member's time has now expired.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** I was wondering if I could have three or four minutes more.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Is there unanimous consent.

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleagues. I will finish just as quickly as possible.

The native community, I think, has to be brought into the process. I am anxious to listen to as many native community leaders as possible with respect to the correctional system and how it impacts on natives in our