June 17, 1986

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, I am glad there is some life on the other side of the House. I was beginning to feel, apart from the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) and the Hon. Member for Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador (Mr. Rompkey), that everyone was in a deep sleep.

Motion No. 17 eliminates the provision allowing for a police officer to disclose to any person information in a record relating to investigation of an offence or, to an insurance company, information in a record relating to investigation of a claim arising out of an offence or alleged offence. The court and not an individual police officer should decide whether disclosure is necessary.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The question is on Motion No. 17. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Motion No. 17 negatived.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston) moved: Motion No. 18

That Bill C-106 be amended in Clause 34 by striking out line 8 on page 27 and substituting the following therefor:

"40, 42 and 43 may, in the discretion of the".

He said: Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak very briefly to the third last amendment which will be proposed by the Liberal Opposition today. It clarifies a technical error in the Bill. We even found a technical error; it is up to the Opposition to find technical errors in the Bill.

Under subsection 45.2, records kept by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police pursuant to Section 41 must be destroyed, while under subsection 45.3 all records, including those pursuant to Section 41, may be destroyed before or after certain circumstances are realized. The amendment will make clear that the RCMP does not have discretion to keep records as subsection 45.2 would suggest. In effect, it provides that in all cases the records should be destroyed under particular circumstances, and that there should not be a distinction between the RCMP and other police forces in Canada.

I am sure the Government will want to support this technical amendment. I look forward to the Tories all shouting: "Yea, yea, yea".

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The question is on Motion No. 18. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion? Young Offenders Act

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Motion No. 18 negatived.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston) moved:

Motion No. 19

That Bill C-106 be amended in Clause 34 by striking lines 34 to 47 on page 27 and lines 1 to 18 on page 28.

He said: Mr. Speaker, Motion No. 19 would eliminate the court's discretion to grant access to records to any person according to broad criteria. Subsection 45.1 of the present legislation would provide access to records even after the qualifying period of non-disclosure had passed, if the broad criteria in the interests of the proper administration of justice were satisfied. Plus, the Crown could reopen a case because of an offence as an adult five years later.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The question is on Motion No. 19. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

Motion No. 19 negatived.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston) moved:

Motion No. 20

That Bill C-106 be amended in Clause 38 by striking line 3 on page 30 and substituting the following therefor:

"Section 61 of the said Act is repealed and the following substituted therefor:

'61. Young persons shall be presumed to have the capacity to take an oath in proceedings under this Act, including proceedings in ordinary court pursuant to Section 16'".

He said: Mr. Speaker, finally we have reached Motion No. 20.

Mr. Rompkey: A nice round number.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, you will notice that the Opposition always deals in round numbers. We have proposed 20 amendments to the legislation. I am sure the record will show that the Government refused each and every one of the 20 amendments, all of which were supported not only by members of the Official Opposition but by very responsible groups who spent many years working in this particular area. These groups came before the committee and made some very persuasive submissions to amend particular sections of the Young Offenders Act.

The Young Offenders Act is only two years old. However, there were some very serious problems with the legislation originally passed by Parliament at that time. As a result of those concerns, a number of months ago the Department of the Solicitor General embarked upon a consultation tour across the country to listen to various groups and organizations and to see how the Bill could be improved. The groups have spoken