

I would like to give a short summary of the amendments to the Criminal Code contained in this Bill. They provide, among other things, for a victim fine surcharge; the victim's participation in determining the sentence through the court's use of a victim impact statement; the use of photographs and affidavits as evidence in order to accelerate the return of recovered property to the victim; a requirement for the judge to consider restitution in all cases where appropriate; and finally, an extension of the authority to ban publication of the identity of victims and witnesses in cases involving sexual offences and extortion offences.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and explain in more detail the principles of Bill C-89. However, it was my understanding that there was an all-Party agreement that there be one speaker per Party. Certainly, that was something that was agreed to by the Liberal Party. As far as I can tell, the NDP does not seem to be in agreement. Therefore, in order to permit the members of the socialist Party to speak on Bill C-89, I move:

That the House continue to sit beyond the ordinary hour of daily adjournment, for the purpose of continuing consideration of third reading of Bill C-89, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (victims of crime).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edwards): It is moved by Mr. Grisé, seconded by Mr. Vincent, that the House continue to sit beyond the ordinary hour of daily adjournment, for the purpose of continuing consideration of third reading of Bill C-89, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (victims of crime).

Will those Members who object to the motion please rise in their places.

And fewer than 15 Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edwards): Fewer than 15 Members having risen, pursuant to Standing Order 9(4)(b), the motion is adopted.

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PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Edwards): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for Cochrane Superior (Mr. Penner)—Finance—Northern tax allowances—Geographical delineation of affected communities/Request that regulations be amended; the Hon. Member for The Battlefords—Meadow Lake (Mr. Gormley)—Excise Tax Act—Farm fuel rebate—Alleged delay in passing Bill C-117; the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway)—Energy—Low sulphur western coal—Proposed use by Ontario Hydro.

Criminal Code

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Hnatyshyn that Bill C-89, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (victims of crime), be read the third time and passed.

Ms. Audrey McLaughlin (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to speak to Bill C-89. When the federal Department of Justice, in the early 1980s, instituted a study on the question of victims of crime, I carried out the Yukon section of that national study. Given that history, it is an area in which I have a particular personal interest.

We in the NDP consider Bill C-89 to be an important piece of legislation, and certainly we support it in principle. In fact, we agreed, on second reading, to put forward one speaker only, thus enabling the Bill to be quickly referred to committee for detailed consideration and amendment.

The issues today in respect of victims of crime are not much different from those I encountered when participating in the national study conducted in the early 1980s. It is the view now, as it was then, that the lack of enforcement of restitution provisions among others, tended to undermine the community's confidence in the criminal justice system. A large area of concern centred around the treatment of victims, both as a result of the crime itself and the criminal justice process. Whether they were victims of property offences or of bodily offences, many of the people to whom I spoke were very concerned that they had not really received respect from the system nor the kind of support from the system that a Canadian citizen should expect.

• (1620)

We have in Canada, quite justly so, I feel, having been involved in this field myself, put a lot of emphasis on the rights of the prisoner, on improving the correctional system, though not to the extent some of us would like to see it improved. However, it has been improved substantially. It is certainly long overdue that we give very special recognition in law to the rights of victims of crime. Much of the credit for this must go not to politicians but to those people and their families who have been victims of crime and have lobbied long and hard for justice.

I would like to talk about a couple of parts of this legislation that I think are very good and about several that I hope will be worked on in the future in order to improve the legislation. The first is the issue of restitution.

I found out one thing when interviewing some 400 people in the Yukon about their experiences as victims of crime. The majority of the offences involved, of course, in any jurisdiction, are property offences and not personal offences. The recommendation people consistently made was not to send everyone