

Court of Québec

[Translation]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the Official Opposition was indeed consulted and that we have given our approval to the proposed procedure and that we will join the Government in passing Bill C-145.

[English]

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, speaking on behalf of the New Democratic Party, we, too, agree to this process and believe that this legislation will in fact improve the administration of justice in Quebec. For that reason we are prepared to facilitate passage of the Bill.

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QUÉBEC COURTS AMENDMENT ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Doug Lewis (for the Minister of Justice) moved that Bill C-145, an Act to amend various Acts to give effect to the reconstitution of the Quebec Provincial Court, Court of the Sessions of the Peace and Youth Court as the Court of Quebec, be read the second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon, Mr. Paproski in the Chair.

Clauses 2 and 3 agreed to.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Schedule agreed to.

Title agreed to.

Bill reported, read the third time and passed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being two o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS--BILLS

[English]

CRIMINAL CODE

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-264, an Act to amend the Criminal Code (instruments and literature for illicit drug use), as reported (with amendments) from a legislative committee.

Mr. Bob Horner (Mississauga North) moved:

That Bill C-264 be amended in Clause 1 by striking out lines 11 to 15 at page 1 and lines 1 to 5 at page 2 and substituting the following therefor:

"ited pursuant to the Narcotic Control Act, controlled pursuant to Part III of the Food and Drugs Act or restricted pursuant to Part IV of the Food and Drugs Act;

"illicit drug use" means the importation, exportation, cultivation, sale or possession of a narcotic, drug or other substance contrary to the Narcotic Control Act or Part III or IV of the Food and Drugs Act or a regulation made thereunder;

"instrument for illicit drug use" means anything designed primarily or intended under the circumstances for consuming or to facilitate the consumption of an illicit drug, but does not include a "device" as that term is defined in section 2 of the Food and Drugs Act";

He said: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise to speak briefly on this very important Bill and the amendment which I tabled two days ago. I want to explain some of the reasons why this amendment was tabled and why this Bill is very important.

We debate things like child care in this House. We speak about doubling the number of spaces to look after the needs of the young people in our nation. Since 1984 we have reduced youth unemployment by six points. We have just debated for an hour the free trade agreement to ensure continued prosperity for the youth of the nation.

However, we abdicate our responsibility and duty by allowing contradictory messages to be sent to the youth of the nation by allowing head shops or drug paraphernalia outlets to sell their products, such as hookah pipes to the youth, the most important resource that we have in Canada.

A couple of associations objected to the Bill as it was worded and that is why I tabled amendments. The Canadian Pharmaceutical Association was concerned that under this Bill, as it was reported from committee, drug stores could be convicted of selling or giving hypodermic needles and syringes to diabetics. The Canadian Medical Association was concerned that if these hypodermic needles and syringes were obtained by someone claiming to be a diabetic who was actually a drug addict, it could promote the spread of AIDS.

Therefore, I believed it was necessary to move an amendment covering illicit drugs, illicit drug use, and instruments for illicit drug use. The first section of the amendment would add to the definition of illicit drug the category of controlled drugs regulated under Part III of the Food and Drugs Act. Controlled drugs include amphetamines and barbiturates. The Bill reported out of committee would have dealt only with narcotic drugs and restricted drugs. Any drug paraphernalia associated with controlled drugs would not have been regulated.

The second part of the amendment is technical in nature. On June 23 the legislative committee amended the definition of "illicit drugs" by adding the phrase "used in a manner contradictory to the provisions of the Narcotic Control Act". The committee accepted this amendment to respond to concerns from the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association regarding the application of the Bill to needles and syringes.