

*Criminal Code*

families. If we were not as backward looking in our society, this is a step that we would take. Countries like Mexico allow conjugal visits in prison, not as we might allow them in Canada on the basis of a reward, but as a right. There are few things a Mexican prisoner can do that will result in his losing that right.

The question is then asked, well, what do we do for single prisoners. This is something that would have to be considered seriously, but I have no objection to prostitutes being used in prisons if this does not offend their sensitivities. Society should do something to prevent people leaving prisons as latent homosexuals. Anyone who buries his head in the sand and says that nothing can be done to cope with this problem in prisons is not aware of the families that have suffered or the broken homes that have resulted after prisoners have been released.

At the very least we should have a system whereby prisoners are let out for weekends for a number of months before their sentence is up. In that way they can adjust to living with their families again. Just imagine the problem it is for a man to leave a prison after being a homosexual for ten years or even five years, and then have to live with his wife and family. These people are not homosexual in the true sense of the word. They are bi-sexual.

Any element of society closely contained within itself, such as boys' schools, seminaries, and the navy, where men are kept in constant close proximity, sees the development of many bi-sexuals. I think we should consider this problem and be far-sighted enough to try and solve it in our penitentiaries. Under these amendments to the Criminal Code provision is being made to eliminate some of the problems encountered by persons serving penitentiary sentences. I believe this is another problem that the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) should consider as the proponent of a just society, particularly if he is really interested in reclaiming those who are not normal in our present society.

Earlier today somebody asked me, why do things happen such as happened in Montreal just yesterday. The simple answer is that these things happen now because a large number of people are not able to exercise their bent in other directions. The young people leading many of the violent rebellions nowadays are the same young people we

[Mr. Peters.]

pinned all the medals on 25 years ago. They are the ones who captured the trench when no one else was willing to put his head out. They are the ones who flew airplanes and shot down a number of hostile aircraft. These are the people with whom we are now having trouble.

While there are many things in this bill that are worthwhile, I repeat that there are many things not included in it. Last night I picked up the paper and read of 15 or 20 offences in the city of Toronto which the R.C.M.P. were prosecuting. These cases involved marijuana. Marijuana is not a narcotic. There was an awful fuss when it was first put on the world narcotic list because some countries did not believe it was a narcotic. But countries that produced cocaine and heroin said that if marijuana were not included, they would not sign the international accord.

Very little research has been done on marijuana. I would venture to say that in most cases it is not as dangerous as alcohol. It is less dangerous than L.S.D., and it is probably not much more dangerous than smoking tobacco. The world looks pretty grim until one has a first cigarette and then it looks better. I know some housewives who find that the world looks pretty bad in the morning. I will not say that they should be kicked out of bed, but I do know that sometimes it is very difficult to talk to them until they have that first cup of coffee. This is also a drug. Caffein is a very serious problem now. Anyone who has a heart condition knows the effect of caffein. Marijuana also has its effects; there is no question about that, but we have done very little work on this. Yet we have the R.C.M.P. chasing the high school kids. I am told that in some of the high schools 40 per cent or 50 per cent of the children use marijuana. I have discussed this with the kids, and I am not at all sure the percentage is that high. The children can tell you who is pushing it. Yet the R.C.M.P. run around and therefore the kids who otherwise would not touch it want to try it. I tried it years ago, and in my opinion it is a very bad smoke. It tastes terrible. It has a very bitter smell, and is not worth the price.

• (5:40 p.m.)

I am told that one must smoke marijuana for a while before it tastes better. It is pretty bad. It is worse than some of the brands of cigarettes I could name. The reason many