

*Criminal Code*

at some point the minister should answer minor questions which would have a bearing on the consent which may be given. I do not think there is any substantial objection to his suggestion, but this would seem to be an appropriate time for the minister to explain two minor matters, after which there may be no further comment on the measure. I suggest it might be done more appropriately now than in committee, because we are being asked to agree that this bill be given all readings today. I am sure there will be general agreement, but first we should satisfy ourselves as to these minor matters.

**Mr. Speaker:** I should think that would be generally acceptable to the house. The minister might like to know what questions are being raised, in order that he may answer them. Perhaps the leader of the opposition would ask his questions now.

**Mr. Drew:** The other point is in regard to the procedure under which the first seven sections of this bill will become operative. I understand that a step will have to be taken under the terms of agreement with Newfoundland in order to make these amendments applicable. I should think it would be of interest to hon. members from Newfoundland to know what steps will be taken outside of this bill to bring about that result.

**Mr. Garson:** That was the second question?

**Mr. Drew:** Yes; those are the two points.

**Mr. Garson:** So far as the first question is concerned, I do not think there is any substantial difference in meaning between subsection (iva) as contained in section 3 of the Senate bill, where it says "any judge of a district court", and the language to which the hon. gentleman referred, "a judge of any district court", as used in connection with another province. I might add that the question of the district court judges is still in the course of negotiation, even with regard to their number. Many of them have yet to be appointed, so it may turn on that point; but I do not think there is any difference in substance at all.

With regard to the question of bringing this bill into effect, as I indicated on a previous occasion,—to which I suppose I am not permitted to refer—in dealing with amendments to our statute law consequent upon Newfoundland's entering into confederation, from the beginning there has been the closest co-operation and consultation between the law officers of the Department of Justice and the law officers of Newfoundland, and that will be continued in connection with the application of the Criminal Code. In connection with part XVI, for instance, it is necessary that the Criminal Code should be put

into effect as soon as possible, but not until the provincial authorities are ready to administer it. In the meantime, of course, the criminal law of Newfoundland remains as it is.

**Mr. T. L. Church (Broadview):** I want to refer to just a few matters on the second reading of this bill, which has come to us from another place. I believe this is the same bill that was before us a short time ago, relating to Newfoundland. At that time, when we were assembled here before Easter, I suggested to the Attorney General (Mr. Garson) that we should have in this house a legal committee to consider this and other similar bills. Some two years ago I asked the hon. gentleman's predecessor, in connection with this very matter of Newfoundland, whether he would consider setting up what they have in the various provinces—a legal committee which would properly consider bills of this kind, of which we have a large number. Some originate in this house; some come from "another place", which is the term they are now applying to the other house of parliament. There were some twenty of these bills during the last session. The provinces have found it a good thing to have such a committee. It goes over these bills; it has the law officers of the crown in attendance; it hears deputations of various kinds representing people interested in these matters.

It must be remembered that large numbers of people are concerned with these legal bills. Look at the fatalities resulting from the fact that we do not have such a committee. Look at the accidents on the highways and level crossings. I understood the minister's predecessor to say he would consider setting up such a committee. Then, as I said, I asked the present minister, who is also the Attorney General of Canada, whether he would consider it, and I thought he said he would. In my opinion such a committee would be a great help to the minister.

I cannot find any record of this bill having been sent to any committee in the other place, but it had summary discussion by three or four members of that chamber, and finally it was passed and sent to this house.

There are two or three things I should like to point out about Newfoundland. Newfoundland has become the tenth province of confederation. At the time, that province was under the jurisdiction of the British parliament and had a commission form of government which governed Labrador as well. Two years ago there was a discussion in this house about Labrador's natural resources—I was on the committee. Until recently Newfoundland had no parliamentary form of government. What is it proposed to give to the tenth province through this bill? It is