

In attempting to offer some solace to the hon. gentleman, who recognizes the difficulties in achieving what ought to be achieved, I might indicate that in my view this treaty and this legislation will permit additional treaties to be signed and subsequently ratified, which will encourage an increase of exchanges between legal jurisdictions and legal systems throughout the world.

● (1252)

If we deal with offenders and the exchange of offenders, naturally there will be an increase in the familiarization of each other's systems, even with Mexico. Undoubtedly the signing and ratification of that treaty, after this bill is passed, will encourage an increase in exchanges between Canadian justice authorities and those in Mexico. As a result of that, we will be able to assist to a greater degree the Department of External Affairs and our representatives in foreign countries in order to achieve the ends the hon. member identified, namely, ensuring that Canadian citizens who run counter to laws in foreign lands are dealt with expeditiously, fairly, equitably, and in accordance with the standard of justice in those countries; and that Canadian authorities are kept abreast of the manner in which those individuals are dealt with.

In conclusion, I thank hon. members who participated in this debate. It has been a very constructive one. We have canvassed the issues very readily. It is that type of co-operation which is essential to the proper functioning of parliament at this particular time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt) indicated at second reading stage of this bill and in the standing committee, our party supports this legislation. We are not dealing with the offences which persons may have committed, nor the severity or otherwise of the sentences imposed. We are dealing with the making of arrangements for transferring persons detained in certain foreign prisons to this country and vice versa. This is good legislation, and it is long overdue.

We share the concern of the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) regarding those detained in foreign prisons awaiting trial. I welcome the assurance of the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais) that he shares that concern as well, and that the matter is being pursued. We were prepared to give unanimous consent to proceed with the report stage of this bill today, even though the rules require a bit more time. We hope the bill can be passed today. As a matter of fact if I sit down, perhaps it would be passed by one o'clock.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

Elections

ELECTIONS

AMENDMENTS RESPECTING ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development) moved that Bill C-33, to amend the Canada Elections Act, the Election Expenses Act and the Northwest Territories Act in respect of territorial elections, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the reason I was anxious to deal with this bill is because I think we can dispose of it before one o'clock. There have been discussions with all parties. Particularly I want to thank the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), the hon. member for the Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth), the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), and the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette). They agreed to give this bill all three readings today before one o'clock. That is the understanding.

Effectively the bill transfers the legislative and administrative responsibilities for the conduct of councils' elections in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories to the councils, the commissioners and their staff. This bill has been the subject of consultation with the people in both the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. It has their support. Therefore, with Your Honour's indulgence, perhaps the bill can receive all three readings today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): Mr. Speaker, there is an all-party agreement for Bill C-33 to go through all three stages today. This power to administer elections has always been in the Yukon. It was transferred approximately five years ago to the Chief Electoral Officer. It was thought that some money would be saved and efficiency would be improved. With the growth of the territories, we now find we would like to have the powers resident locally once again.

Provisions exist in the Yukon Act which provides them with the power to run their own elections. Simply, the territories want the power returned to them. The minister is correct when he indicated that there was an all-party agreement for the bill to pass all three stages this afternoon.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth) has been made aware of the contents of this bill. The bill seems to carry out what we were told would be in it. I may add that the hon. member for Northwest Territories expressed the hope that we would pass the bill quickly. It received first reading yesterday. We are happy to give it second reading now, consideration in committee of the whole and third reading, before lunch.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order. Is there unanimous consent to changing the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.