

*Criminal Records*

who have seen the light. If there is any way in which this can be done, it will certainly have my support and, I am sure, the support of every member of this House. But I suggest that we should not necessarily destroy all criminal records merely because those of us who are more adjusted in society believe a criminal should get a break.

There is another very important point to keep in mind. I refer to the protection of society. I could go so far as to say that one protection we have is by making sure that the criminal is not mollicoddled or treated too well, because the fact that he has a record may encourage him not to make it any worse.

In matters concerning the security of Canada I have no hesitation in saying that when a person has proven himself to be an enemy of society, some permanent record should be kept in the event that in the future he may endanger a citizen or Canada as a whole. Having served in the force myself, I am pleased to see that "commissioner" in the bill refers to a commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I think that permanent records such as those kept at the headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police would not be abused.

In cases where it is thought by the Solicitor General, the Attorney General of Canada or the Governor in Council that the person is dangerous, a permanent record should certainly be kept. I cannot imagine a safer place than the headquarters of our highly respected and responsible force. This is a great responsibility and I know that in the past responsibility has been undertaken with great decorum. I hope we never lose the feeling of satisfaction we have with the way this force has carried out its duties.

Because the treatment of our police in general has been somewhat severe in recent years, and because I am afraid there has been almost a campaign against the police, I suggest that we do not spend sufficient money to make sure that we have proper law enforcement officers across this nation. From my own experience I would suggest several things might be done. One would be to have a series of police colleges across Canada at which policemen who come in contact with members of the public in respect of law enforcement would have an opportunity to be properly trained. I believe we should take a broader view in respect of this whole problem and decide to spend the necessary money on training our police officers.

I would refer to the unfortunate incident which was recently reported in the newspapers involving an official of the British Columbia government who was manhandled. I shall not pass judgment on this incident, but from what I have read it would appear to be the type of incident which should not occur anywhere in the world and certainly not in Canada. I am sure this type of incident could be prevented if we had a proper school and screening for our law enforcement officers.

The type of police college I have in mind would be available to police officers preferably before they go out on the beat. At the colleges these persons would have instilled in them the spirit of police work and their duties would be outlined. This would involve the expenditure of a certain amount of money, but the money would be an investment not only in respect of the prevention of crime but in terms of the respect all citizens would have for law and order.

● (3:20 p.m.)

Revenge has largely gone out of our law. We have come a long way in the last 150 years when under the British law and our tradition at least 120 offences carried capital punishment. We thought nothing of sending our young men and women as far away as we could from their own country to prison camps in Australia for offences such as stealing a sheep, or in some cases for being suspected of stealing a sheep. It was a corrupt law, but we have come a long way since then.

However, I enter my plea that we must not become so soft that all our attentions are directed at making things soft for the criminal. We still have to protect society. We must not become so broadminded that our brains fall out. I am sometimes accused of being a little emotional, but I do not think this is one of the areas in which we can afford to be mere flag-raisers. I think that the protection of society is as important as the humanitarian treatment of the offender. Our security and the protection of past offenders is our main duty here.

I cannot possibly cover the whole question of rehabilitation in the short time that I have at my disposal. I agree with those who have said that it is no good putting our young people out of circulation unless we intend to do something positive for them. Revenge is out, and rehabilitation is expensive. It costs a lot of money to bring a boy back after he has started on the wrong road. I am not one who underrates rehabilitation, but I want to harp