

Criminal Code

Those are, Mr. Speaker, the remarks that I wanted to make.

[English]

Mr. D. Gordon Blair (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, we are talking about one of the great agencies of our country, the Supreme Court, which throughout its history has been a remarkably fruitful federal institution.

Like the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) I have had the privilege from time to time of appearing in that court. Anyone who appears there knows that its proceedings are carried on equally in French or English, whether in writing or orally, and contrary to what was said by my hon. friend from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) the reports of the court are published in two languages.

It may be that because of the nature of our country not every judge who sits on that court is thoroughly bilingual, but it is a matter of common knowledge to those of us who live in the City of Ottawa that judges of that court make a very determined and valid effort to become bilingual.

What I am a little afraid of is that we in this debate, have fallen, perhaps unwittingly, into the trap of casting criticism on the court which is the head of the judicial system of this country and I do not think any of us would wish to do so. For this reason, I think this would be a most inappropriate motion upon which to divide the house.

Mr. Bell: Six o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair.

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

CRIMINAL CODE

REPORT STAGE

The house resumed consideration of Bill C-150, to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act, and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, as reported (with

[Mr. Corbin.]

amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

And the motion of Mr. Woolliams (for Mr. Valade):

That Bill C-150, an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Parole Act, the Penitentiary Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act and to make certain consequential amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, the Customs Tariff and the National Defence Act, be amended by deleting therefrom clause 7.

[Translation]

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, when the house adjourned this afternoon, I was making some comments on how the committee had proceeded in order to study the various amendments proposed to the omnibus bill.

However, to back up my arguments, I would like to remind you of what the Minister of Justice said when he introduced this omnibus bill in the house for first reading a few months ago.

I am quoting him from memory. According to what he said, this was to be one of the most important legislation in Canadian parliamentary history. If this is the case, Mr. Speaker, we were entitled to expect that the members of the house would have the freedom to discuss all the aspects of the bill, both in the house and in committee.

We also hoped that we could call all the experts and witnesses necessary to collect the information which would enable members of the committee to form an opinion on the subject and to make really useful suggestions to the house.

Unfortunately, right from the first sittings of the committee, I found, to my disappointment, that a truly deplorable attitude was being taken which was creating a precedent with regard to the procedure to be followed.

We were informed that we would have the opportunity to test the efficiency of this new procedure which had been proposed and agreed to by the opposition. With this new procedure, committees would be able to consider the subject matter and the merits of each proposed amendment.

Unfortunately, the committee decided to expedite the matters that were referred to it by the house. Furthermore, we were informed that the time allotted to each committee member would be limited to a maximum of ten minutes, and that each party represented on this committee would be entitled to call upon two experts at the most. That meant that the