

Young Offenders Act

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The question is on Motion No. 14. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Motion No. 14 negatived.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston) moved:

Motion No. 15

That Bill C-106 be amended in Clause 33 by striking lines 30 to 41 on page 23 and substituting the following therefor:

“(f) any peace officer, for the purpose of investigating any offence that the young person is suspected on reasonable and probable grounds of having committed, or in respect of which the young person has been arrested or charged, whether as a young person or as an adult;”

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is pretty hard work. I am justifying the lucrative salary they pay us here. Thank goodness we are nearing the end. I would invite Hon. Members opposite to justify their salaries by rising to indicate why they do not support these particular amendments.

Amendment No. 15 limits the access of police officers to the records of a young offender for investigative purposes where the young person is suspected on reasonable or probable grounds of having committed an offence or where the young person has been charged with an offence.

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

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The question is on Motion No. 15. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Motion No. 15 negatived.

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston) moved:

Motion No. 16

That Bill C-106 be amended in Clause 33 by striking line 20 on page 25 and substituting the following therefor:

“(5) Any record necessary for the purpose of bringing a civil case that is kept pursuant to”

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is democracy in action. Members of Her Majesty's Loyal and Official Opposition are proceeding in a very constructive and responsible fashion by recommending and moving amendments to the legislation that would make it better legislation, but government Members are using their huge majority to strike down these very worth-while amendments one after another.

The record will speak for itself in the years to come. We in the Official Opposition will be able to say that we tried to move amendments but Hon. Members opposite kept saying

nay, nay, nay. The record will speak for itself and will say that we tried to move Amendment No. 16 but the huge majority opposite used its clout to strike down this amendment.

Amendment No. 16 would allow a victim of an offence access to only those records necessary for the bringing of a civil action. This amendment was recommended by Justice for Children. We in the Official Opposition were persuaded that this amendment would improve the Bill substantially, and I would hope for a change in that Hon. Members opposite will say yea rather than nay. I am beginning to feel that we are here with a bunch of those animals that say “neigh”.

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

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): The question is on Motion No. 16. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Some Hon. Members: On division.

Motion No. 16 negatived.

● (1630)

Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston) moved:

Motion No. 17

That Bill C-106 be amended in Clause 33 by striking lines 30 to 41 on page 25.

He said: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, Motion No. 17—

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nunziata: It seems that Members on all sides of the House are becoming rather weary of this exercise, but it is important to ensure that we put forward the amendments. They were recommended by some very responsible organizations which deal with young people and young offenders. These amendments were proposed and recommended by members of the media who deal with these situations day in and day out.

Had the Government the wisdom to adopt the amendments, I believe very strongly that we would have a near perfect piece of legislation. However, given its refusal to adopt any of these recommendations, the Bill will continue to be flawed. I am sure time will tell whether these amendments would in fact improve the legislation.

For the record, so that my grandchildren and great grandchildren will be able to read it in years to come—

Mr. Nystrom: When?

Mr. Gauthier: Tell us when, John.

Mr. Lewis: I wouldn't touch that one.

Mr. Nystrom: Are you announcing something, John?