

increased privileges which may be withdrawn. The developing emphasis of the psycho-social approach being made by professional personnel through individual and group therapy and medical sedation should enable changed attitudes to the treatment of disturbed inmates in episodic aggressive outbreaks of hostile behaviour. The reduction of the size of the population in the institutions should contribute to better staff-inmate relationships and a permeation of the inmate subculture. The development of medical corrections centres should make possible the removal of disturbed inmates from the general institutions into a milieu specifically designed to cope with their behaviour.

I could not agree more with Mr. A. M. Kirkpatrick, executive director of the John Howard Society of Ontario.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Disagree?

Mr. Gilbert: Mr. Speaker, I just heard one of the members in the front row comment that he could not disagree more. He represents the old, reactionary view—

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Oh, take off your halo.

Mr. Gilbert: —with regard to the treatment of young people and that type of approach to criminal law. Mr. John R. Seeley, a Canadian sociologist now associated with the Centre for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Santa Barbara, California, has also set forth what the hon. member for Egmont said, that the men who inflict this type of punishment obtain a psychomasochistic experience. Surely it is time that this was prohibited. I also quote Mr. J. D. Griffin, the general director of the Canadian Mental Health Association, who suggests its abolition.

I introduced an amendment to the omnibus bill which was introduced by the Minister of Justice, dealing with the abolition of corporal punishment. I presented it in committee and it was ruled out. I also presented it at the report stage and it received the same treatment. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that if we were to poll all hon. members of this House they would agree it is high time this regressive measure were taken off the Canadian statute books. I have never experienced a more barbaric, anachronistic measure.

We do not need any further study. We have had the committee; we have had the Ouimet report. Now it is time for the Minister of Justice, who lost a great deal of his progressive image when he invoked the War Measures Act—

An hon. Member: That isn't true.

Mr. Gilbert: —to regain some of his prestige, some of his progressive spirit by bringing forth a measure which would not only abolish corporal punishment but would abolish the crime of vagrancy, provide for uniformity of sentencing, and legislate with regard to dangerous offenders. Through you, Mr. Speaker, I appeal to hon. members to show their finer instincts and to bring forth legislation in this regard which is in harmony with the social views of today. I hope the hon. member for New Westminster will exert all his power and pressure in

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favour of this bill and will not become the Reagan of the west by being against such an important measure.

Mr. Douglas A. Hogarth (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, in reply to the hon. member who has just spoken I wish to point out that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) has publicly announced that corporal punishment will be abolished. I recognize that this step has been a long time coming, but I assure the hon. member that I have done everything I can and used all the power of a single backbencher to get that bill before the House. However, I think it only fair to state that the House is very occupied with a great many things and, as has been pointed out by the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald), there is not a high incidence of use of corporal punishment; thus, there are perhaps one or two measures which could take precedence over its abolition.

The bail reform bill which is now before the House is one of the most important and progressive pieces of criminal law legislation that I have seen for some time. I would ask the hon. member to be patient because I assure him, according to what the Minister of Justice has said, that there is a minor omnibus bill coming in which will bring about long-needed reform in the criminal law. I believe he will find that many of the reforms in it are in keeping with his ideas.

I am certain the minister would not want to delay the matter further by referring these new suggestions to the Law Reform Commission. I look forward to seeing them before the House in due course.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. member a question.

Mr. Hogarth: By all means.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Since time will run out in a minute or two, and since the hon. member has indicated that there is general disposition on the part of the House to deal with this matter quickly, would it not save the time of the House and of the committee if the matter were referred to committee? Then this item could be passed and we could get on with the other items mentioned by the hon. member.

Mr. Hogarth: Mr. Speaker, I was just going to point out that the Parliamentary Secretary is in the chamber. Since the minister has announced that we are going to abolish corporal punishment, and since this bill takes the matter half way, I was about to suggest that we refer the bill to committee right now and assist the minister a little in this regard. However, the only matter that concerns me is that if one looks at the schedule of business that is before the justice committee this year it will be seen that it is absolutely impossible to get down to this particular bill. Therefore, we might as well wait until the omnibus bill comes in, which can be considered in a comprehensive way by the House without being restricted just to private members' hour. I am in favour of the abolition of corporal punishment and of capital punishment and I am only sorry their abolition has not come before the House sooner.