

*Legal Assistance*

As well, he pointed out that under the present legislation certain regimes will probably come forward since the legislation envisions a wider view of which countries can obtain these benefits in Canada. He pointed to the cases of Chile and Argentina. The Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan) as well pointed out that these regimes could approach Canada and ask for law-enforcement activity within Canada targeted against individuals whose activities would not be considered criminal in Canada.

For example, there are a great many Canadians of Chilean origin, many of whom were judged to have committed crimes in that country which are not crimes in this country. They fear that regime and have been subjected to severe repression. Ultimately, the thought of our law-enforcement agencies co-operating in any way with that regime is absolutely intolerable.

As far as my colleagues and I are concerned, when this legislation goes to committee it will be given very serious scrutiny. We will look to tightening the legislation so that it is targeted at specific areas of concern. We will be very careful with any rights it allows foreign law-enforcement agencies in Canada.

There is a positive side to this legislation that I am surprised has not been discussed or has not been envisioned by the Government. Some Canadians have asked Canadian law enforcement agencies to become more involved with American law enforcement agencies in the search for missing persons, family members who have disappeared. In this case, there seems to be a great reluctance on the part of the Americans to participate effectively with Canadian authorities. It has become a matter of concern for individuals in my constituency where there is not good co-operation with American authorities in assisting in attempts to reunite family members.

In the search for missing children, law-enforcement agencies are the effective agencies. I believe this Bill could be used to encourage the United States by indicating we would certainly be prepared to assist here if we could see a much larger initiative in assistance from them.

As well, there are people who have gone to the United States to avoid family obligations imposed by Canadian courts. Assistance in solving that problem could definitely be improved by this legislation. Given the concerns in respect of those issues which exist on all sides of the House and certainly on both sides of the border, that should be looked into.

My colleague, the Hon. Member for Burnaby, mentioned a matter of serious concern on which the Canadian Government should take the initiative with the American Government. The Canadian Government should suggest that the list of excluded Canadians under the McCarran-Walter Act should be re-examined. Indeed, some of the absolutely frivolous reasons for excluding Canadians from the United States should be removed. Those Canadians should have the right to go back and forth across the boundary. Many people who live in Canada have family, contacts and friends in the United States. It becomes a very serious matter when a family member is

excluded. At least half of my own family are citizens of the United States.

During the Vietnam war, many people who lived in the United States were severely tested by the war and were under pressure of the draft and their absolute abhorrence of that war. Many were likely candidates to avoid the draft by coming to Canada. Those who did are now unable to visit immediate members of their families in the United States.

This legislation is of particular concern to me. I personally would like to see it made much tighter. Although it does not apply in my particular case, I can understand the concerns of other people over the McCarran-Walter Act. They are unable to visit family members or travel in the United States for the most absolutely frivolous reasons. It is a time both Governments approached this from a reasonable point of view and eliminated that list.

We as Members of the House of Commons know of a very tragic example of the failure of the Canadian Government to pressure, through the negotiation process, a quid pro quo approach to the question of the LSD experiments. We should indicate to the United States that we will move on areas that are of interest and concern to Americans if they will address the things that concern us as Canadians. This must be done.

The LSD experiments are an example of something that was intolerable. Great damage was done and compensation must be addressed. That issue should have been raised by the Prime Minister. There should have been a clear-cut agreement that that matter will be resolved and put to rest.

I believe we should pursue these issues as we consider the legislation through committee and report stages and on to third reading. Quite honestly, I think American officials should be invited to appear before the committee to tell us why these other items have not been addressed if we are expected to pass this legislation.

● (1240)

The timing of the legislation has been mentioned as an issue. The United States has not passed reciprocal legislation. In the case of the salmon interception agreement we had to make amendments to our legislation before the Americans would consider passing theirs. We do not know what they will do with their legislation. They may amend it or reject it outright. It would be better to have agreements which are worked out between Canada and the U.S. considered and ratified simultaneously and avoid this problem.

The matter before us today is of very serious concern. The Liberal Party appears prepared to move ahead quickly on this legislation. I know it was probably a slip of the tongue, but the Hon. Member for York Centre said he could see some problems when the Government was faced with requests for law enforcement assistance in Canada from democracies like Argentina and Chile. I was quite shocked when I heard that. It would be a simple matter for the Hon. Member to check and