

*Government Orders*

Mr. Speaker, I think you will find consent for the following motion. I move:

That the motion for second reading of Bill C-128 be amended by having the bill referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General, rather than a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General.

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**SEIZED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT ACT**

## MEASURE TO ENACT

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (for the Minister of Justice)** moved that Bill C-123, an act respecting the management of certain property seized or restrained in connection with certain offences, the disposition of certain property on the forfeiture thereof and the sharing of the proceeds of disposition therefrom in certain circumstances be read the third time and passed.

**Mr. Rob Nicholson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker I am pleased to rise and speak on third reading of this bill.

Right off the top, I want to say I am not prepared to apologize, nor is the Minister of Justice or anyone on this side of the House, for the justice bills or the number of them that are before the House.

The record of this Parliament will show that there has been continuous government action taken in making this country a better place and a safer place in which to live. When people say: "My heavens, you are doing something with child pornography; you have wire-tap legislation", I make no apologies for it at all. It is part of a continuing process.

To my knowledge, there has not been one month in the last four and a half years in which this Parliament has not been seized with justice legislation. Most of my colleagues on this side of the House have welcomed that and are very pleased to see it.

• (1550)

Hon. members will know that just the changes to the Young Offenders Act alone were a considerable improvement over the provisions that prevailed in the Young Offenders Act when we began this session of Parliament.

Of course we have to react and we have to react quickly. Some of the wire-tap provisions in the Criminal Code were struck down by the Supreme Court of Canada. At that point we did not simply throw up our hands and say: "Well, that is it. We will not revisit this as we do not want to upset somebody in the opposition because we have so much in the area of justice". We did not say that. We said: "All right. If there is a problem with one of the wire-tap sections, let us have a look at it", and we have changed it.

In the area of child pornography I hope members of the House will support and expedite that. We have already had a couple of attempts at it. It was very difficult, quite frankly, to get that kind of co-operation to move a bill on pornography through the House.

The bill before us now deals with the proceeds of crime. It works in conjunction with a whole host of initiatives and I mentioned the wire-tap legislation. I will explain why we are bringing them in.

The people working against making Canada a wonderful place to live, the people involved with crime in this country, are very sophisticated. There is quite a bit of money involved with these things. Therefore, should the law be constantly updated and reviewed to make sure we have the tools to effectively combat crime?

My answer and that of members on this side of the House is that yes, Canadians want us to do that. This has been confirmed in every questionnaire I have sent out in my riding. I questioned people on a whole host of issues, including crime prevention. I asked them what they thought about the distribution of the proceeds of crime, sharing it with law enforcement jurisdictions. Overwhelmingly people said that it was a good idea.

So when my colleague, the Minister of Justice, introduces a piece of legislation I can say that it certainly goes with my complete blessing and full support. That is what we have here. This bill which deals with the proceeds of crime is a good one.