

Criminal Code

The author of the article goes on to explain the complicated reality of who is able to treat the matter when the child is in one place, one parent is in another and the other parent is somewhere else; when both of them have moved, or when a move to another country is involved or when two states in the United States are involved or different provinces in Canada. It is a very complicated situation.

In summing up, I support the general notion which has been proposed by the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North-Delta and supported by the hon. member from Sault Ste. Marie in this area of protecting children. They are the ones who really do suffer from the breakdown of marriages as we know them. It is essential we find a way to make it possible for these children to have freedom to develop with the least possible destruction to their personalities and their future.

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen) for the very excellent bill which he has presented to the House. Apparently, this bill has been receiving widespread publicity, as I have received letters from my constituents urging me to support it.

I support this bill and I congratulate the hon. member for putting it before the House. I urge hon. members on the government benches to not talk this bill out. This bill will not embarrass the government. It will help boys and girls. It will not cost any money. It will give boys and girls a chance to live a reasonably normal life—how many boys and girls I do not know. So I urge all hon. members not to talk this bill out but to give it their full support in order that it may become the law in this country.

Some 30 years ago I found that the same type of procedures were going on as those described today. In those years probably seven out of ten cases were caused by the use of liquor. Liquor has the property of breaking down principles and morals in a home. When liquor becomes so necessary in the life of a man or a woman, it gradually takes precedence over their own offspring and then, as one hon. member has already said, that love, which is so wonderful, turns to hate, which is so terrible. But the child is the one I really worry about.

I had a boy come to the boys' camp which I have operated for a number of years. When he arrived I was told he was a bad kid and that we should not really take him. I asked the chap who spoke to me, "Is the lad having another holiday?" He said: "No, he will never get a holiday. His dad is a drunkard and his mother is a drunkard. He will never get a holiday." I said, "We will take him into camp. That is what our camp is for." During the week he was there I found that the boy was a splendid lad. He was a lad who co-operated and enjoyed the sports. He would say thank you to the cooks after almost every meal he had. The day before he went home I called him over and said, "Bobby, tomorrow we all go home." He said, "I hate the thought of it." And that, Mr. Speaker, from a ten-year-old boy. I said, "Well, Bobby, the purpose of this camp is to make you appreciate your home, your mother and your dad. We have a good time out here but we cannot

replace mother and dad." He said, "Well, I hardly ever see my mother and dad. They are always in the beer parlour."

A year later that boy was in the position mentioned by the hon. member who presented this bill. His parents separated, neither one of them wanted the boy. He was a splendid boy. He was hustled off to another relative. I do not have much sympathy for the parents. I can understand their dilemma when they are obsessed with liquor and when they lose all sense of decent living. But I can never forgive them for ruining the childhood of a boy who could have been a tremendous asset. I do not even know where that lad is now. I hope he has overcome the terrible handicap with which he was burdened.

● (1740)

During my first 20 years in public life, liquor seemed to be at the root of 80 per cent of such cases. During the last 20 years, while liquor is still a predominant factor, the use of drugs has come into the picture. These drugs are being used by both the parents and the children. I have no use whatever for any adult who tries to make his fortune by selling drugs to teenagers, in some cases to children who have not yet reached their teens.

While I was the minister of youth for Alberta, I received a call from a doctor at the University Hospital. He told me the story of how drug peddlers were trying to sell drugs to students at Victoria High School. Because the students had taken some courses on drugs and had learned what drugs could do to their minds, their reproductive organs and their lives, the drug peddlers found a wall of strong young teenagers who told them to clear off. The drug peddlers cleared off and went to an elementary school and talked youngsters around the ages of nine years, ten and 11 into taking that particular drug, which was a mixture of grass and a few other ingredients.

As a result of taking these drugs, three youths found themselves at the University Hospital. Two of them will never be the same again because the drugs completely ruined their minds. In my view the chap who sold the drugs is a murderer in the worst degree. Such people should be punished and removed from circulation when they try to ruin the lives of young people.

Making abduction an offence will be helpful. Approximately four years ago I spoke to some 40 or 50 teenagers at a correctional institution in Edmonton, at the invitation of the principal. These children were of Indian extraction, Metis and coloured extraction and most of them came from broken homes. The majority were slow learners and could not read. Many of their teachers and fellow students in public school, felt that they were dumb and made fun of them because they did not learn fast. As a result, these children stopped asking questions and trying to learn how to read. As they went from grade to grade, they found that they could not keep up because they could not read.

The correctional school was beginning with the fundamentals and teaching these boys and girls, some of whom as old as 17, how to read a primer and books of grades two, three and four levels. In order that the children would not be embar-