

Department of Justice that within at least a year this matter will be reviewed and that some form of compulsory treatment will be put into the Criminal Code so that people such as the ones we have been talking about can receive the assistance they require.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, debates during the private members' hour are fascinating in that they enable all hon. members to express openly their opinions and their concerns about current issues and to introduce in the House bills which, we must admit, illustrate some very valid concerns. In this regard, I would like to congratulate the hon. member for York South (Mrs. Appolloni) for her initiative in introducing today Bill C-206 on hospital orders.

I was particularly pleased to note today that three of the hon. members who took part in this debate, one from the opposition and two from the government, have no special legal training, and it was very interesting to be able to benefit from their views especially since they can approach this problem from something other than a strictly legal viewpoint because we must recognize that the question of hospital orders involves very serious legal problems. In this regard, I wish to thank the hon. member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. MacGuigan) for his extremely well-documented analysis on various problems that the implementation of Bill C-206 or any other similar legislation could cause to the operation of our penal institutions and the good administration of justice if we are not careful to ensure that these measures, that is hospital orders, have been studied in depth.

In this regard, I would like to reassure those who spoke before me, and especially the previous speaker, the hon. member for Bruce-Grey (Mr. Douglas), who asked the Department of Justice for special guarantees, by saying that the Department is paying particular attention to the question

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and that it is deeply concerned about it. I can reassure him on this point because the Department of Justice, following the publication in 1976 of a study of the Law Reform Commission, a report to parliament on mental disorder in the criminal process, established an internal all-level consultation mechanism to assess the impact that the implementation of the Law Reform Commission's recommendations could have on the workings of our institutions. This task force has met with experts in the field of correction, treatment—especially psychiatrists, psychologists, police officers, and consultative bodies—community work or services, and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that this committee intends to report and—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has now expired.

[*English*]

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order simply to ask whether there was not some understanding that the subject matter of this bill would be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada on a point of order.

Mr. Lachance: Mr. Speaker, I believe we will have the opportunity to resume this debate at some later date when the bill reappears on the order paper.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It being five o'clock, the House stands adjourned until Monday at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 4.40 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.