

Protection of Privacy

know it disturbs particularly the right hon. gentleman for Prince Albert. This seems to be a reasonable provision which will give the officers of the law an opportunity to do their job. They know full well that, first, they must obtain approval from the Attorney General or his agent and, after that, obtain approval from a judge. That will be a reasonable check on the process.

● (1410)

The provision regarding admissibility of direct evidence obtained from legally sanctioned wiretaps is one which I find difficult to accept. I hope the minister will rectify this provision before we complete consideration of the bill. I do not like using distasteful measures in our society, even to achieve ends which may be highly desirable; so, it is with some reluctance that I support the measure before the House and speak against the amendment before the House at this time.

I am prepared to accept reasonable exceptions, well controlled and properly spelled out, which will achieve the broader goals and realistic concerns we all have. We want to allow the police to do their job with efficiency, fairness and compassion, provided at all times they work within the law. They should be required to do their duty with sensitivity, sincerity and a high degree of balance.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, in his foreword to *La loi et l'ordre dans la démocratie canadienne*, Mr. Wilfrid Bovey stated the following, and I quote:

Crime is a constant threat to individual freedom. The citizen of a democracy cannot use this freedom when criminals are allowed to throw obstacles in his way. This is why, as the task of our armed forces is to protect our freedom against threats from without, that of the police is to protect it against threats from within.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, the legislator wants to give our police forces all possible means to control crime, especially organized crime.

I remember reading once that our police forces were vying with criminals in an organization race or a research contest, the latter to devise ways of committing crimes, the former to find means of controlling criminals.

A similar situation can be found, for example, between the world's two super-powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, both vying for the lead in the arms race. Each of them would try to develop the most sophisticated weapons to defeat the other in a conflict. The same can be said of police forces as regards criminals. However, it happens frequently that funds made available to police for crime prevention research are much less than the monies used by criminals to contrive ways of evading our laws to reach their ends.

I think therefore that we must praise each new piece of legislation introduced to help police fight crime in a more effective way. There are however limits to be respected.

Let me quote from Charles Reith's *The Police Idea*:

Our world's basic problem is to find a way to give authorities the power to make sure that their laws are adhered to, without which, as history has largely demonstrated, failure is often inevitable.

However, until now, at least until recent years, our police forces, while doing an effective and heroic job in

[Mr. Danson.]

the circumstances, have had to face very well established criminal organizations often well protected, in high places sometimes.

I believe that our police forces want as many means as possible to detect and combat crime and criminals.

On June 26, 1973, in Sherbrooke, a meeting was held between police forces and Quebec Justice Minister Choquette. At that time, Mr. Choquette said that last year, the police were able to detect 80 per cent of all major crimes, make 658 arrests and lay 1,353 charges thanks to wiretapping.

Mr. Speaker, these figures speak for themselves and we may well wonder if the police could have had such brilliant results without wiretapping.

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the use of bugging devices by anyone, but it includes a few exceptions in the case of authorizations given by some people in authority. We must give our police forces the right to use wiretapping devices to fight crime.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the purpose of the amendment moved by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt) is to restrict to as few people as possible the authority to grant permits for the use of wiretapping devices. I am in favour of this amendment because the greater the number of people allowed to grant such permits, the bigger the risk of seeing wiretapping used for other ends.

I think it is the wish of members of the House and all other Canadians that only our police forces be allowed to wiretap, for the specific purpose of fighting crime. We must do everything we can to avoid that electronic espionage be available to any political or economic system whatever. Such is not the purpose. The objective is to prevent as much as possible too many persons from having the authority to issue these permits.

And as the right hon. member from Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) suggested at noon today, I think that judges—there are enough of them in Canada and they are readily available—should be the only ones with the power to issue these permits, thereby preventing the possibility of these permits being issued to political figures. This does not mean that I do not trust the Attorney General of Canada (Mr. Allmand) or his provincial counterparts, far from it; but we are aware that temptation is sometimes strong and that people change. Therefore, we must take the necessary steps to prevent abuses, and I feel that is exactly the purpose of the amendment introduced by the hon. member for New Westminster and I intend to support it.

● (1420)

[English]

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I will try to be brief. As I understand it, the present motion, moved by the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker), is for the removal of the emergency provisions. Later in the set of motions I have a similar amendment. I was most interested in the remarks made last night by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang). In his comments, the minister referred to the point I made that relying on these techniques or methods of surveillance