

bills without debate, they would not take much time. In any case, we could do those bills a little later.

In the light of all this, I think there has been an understanding that I would be permitted to move the first of the amendments in the name of the hon. member for Skeena on his behalf, on the understanding that if he arrives while the debate is still in progress, he will be permitted to speak at that time.

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I am wondering also whether hon. members would not feel that motions Nos. 1 and 2 might be moved for debate together but voted on separately. They seem to deal with substantially the same matter. It would be a little difficult to contrive two debates on these separate motions. If this is agreed, I will put both motions to the House.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): May I suggest that this could be agreed to, and also, in view of the circumstances to which I have already alluded, perhaps the debate might be permitted to deal generally with the question of enlarging the Parole Board. I understand that there are a number of members who want to speak in those terms. But that fits in with your suggestion, Mr. Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre) (for Mr. Howard) moved:

That Bill C-191, to amend the Parole Act, be amended in clause 1 by inserting the following as subsection 4.1(2) immediately after line 13:

(2) Two of the *ad hoc* members shall be persons of Native Indian origin.

And by renumbering the subsequent subsections accordingly.

That Bill C-191, to amend the Parole Act, be amended in clause 1 by inserting the following as subsection 4.1(3) immediately after line 17:

(3) Two of the *ad hoc* members shall be persons who have served a period of time in a penitentiary under the jurisdiction of the Parliament of Canada whether or not such persons, at the time of their appointment, have been granted a parole.

And by renumbering the subsequent subsections accordingly.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is my purpose at this point to speak to motion No. 1 and to speak briefly. It seems to me that the motion, in fact, speaks for itself. The proposal is that at least two of the ten *ad hoc* members who are being added to the Parole Board by Bill C-191 should be persons of native Indian origin. We are all sadly aware of the fact that a disproportionate number of those in our penitentiaries are of native Indian origin. This raises a social problem and a matter of social concern to which we should be giving thought in many ways.

It does seem a crime, if I may use that word in this context, that proportionately so many more of our Indian and native people find their way into our penitentiaries than is the case with those of other racial backgrounds or origins. It is the feeling of these people, and I am sure that others like myself have had ideas along this line, that greater sympathy, a greater understanding of the plight of

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the native people in penitentiaries, would be accorded if there were some members of the Parole Board actually of native Indian origin. As a matter of fact, there are good arguments for putting persons of native Indian origin in other positions of authority in our correctional system, and representations to that effect have been made by organizations representing our Indian and native people.

● (1500)

I recognize there is always a question raised when it is proposed that any board or body should be constituted on a quota basis. We run into this situation on the question of giving equal representation to women on various boards. We run into it in the case of English and French speaking Canadians, and so on. Yet there are times when, in order to get a principle established, it does seem necessary to make a proposal such as this. Therefore, I suggest that my colleague from Skeena has made a proposal which ought to be considered. I trust that in the discussion of this proposed amendment, ideas will be forthcoming as to what we might do to show more concern for and more helpfulness to our native Indian population. At this moment, however, I urge the House to give its support to this amendment calling for at least two of the ten *ad hoc* members of the Parole Board to be persons of native Indian origin.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to say just a few words on behalf of the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) with regard to these motions.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Isn't he here, either?

Mr. Lalonde: First, I wish to say that the Solicitor General is in Victoria today to discuss with the Attorney General of the province of British Columbia the agenda of the forthcoming federal-provincial conference on corrections to be held in Ottawa between December 12 and December 14.

The essence, and the intent, of Bill C-191 have been fully outlined by the Solicitor General in previous debates, and also in his appearance before the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee. It would seem that the only outstanding matters to be considered relate to the amendments proposed by the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard). As pointed out by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) the two amendments suggest that two of the proposed *ad hoc* members of the Parole Board be native people, and that two others be former inmates. While the Solicitor General fully appreciates the intent of the hon. member's amendments he did make it clear, I believe during second reading, that he would use the expansion of the Parole Board as an opportunity to broaden the base of the board in a significant way. However, I submit that it would be unwise to require, by law, the appointment of any individuals according to race.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre has indeed recognized this difficulty in other cases, saying it would be quite inappropriate to start spelling out in all our bills relating to various boards detailed compositions based on linguistic representation, regional representation and sex representation. If the hon. member for Skeena were here, I