

*Government Orders*

of attention. I feel that some attention has been given in these areas.

The first relates to the victims. It is important not to forget the victim when we are talking about incarceration and parole. The victim may be very concerned about what the offender will do when he or she is released from incarceration, even on a day parole. We have to be able to allow the victim to state his or her concern when dealing with this question of day passes or even parole itself.

The bill gives some consideration to this question. In clause 26, the rights of the victim, including giving the victim the eligibility dates and the review dates applicable to the offender under the act with respect to temporary passes or parole, are dealt with. It is important so that the victim, knowing the horror which he or she may have with regard to somebody being released from incarceration, can make some presentation to the Parole Board or to other authorities which could have a bearing on this question of parole.

Perhaps there is something which the victim will want the Parole Board or the officials to consider. That is not to say that if there is an alarmed victim that it is going to stop a parole or even temporary passes. It is important that this perspective be taken into consideration.

Also there are people who are victims, not in the legal sense, but in the actual physical or mental sense whereby the person who is incarcerated has caused some physical or mental damage to a person who either was not able to or decided not to or for whatever reason did not have that offence heard before a court of law, but may wish to bring before the Parole Board or other agency his or her concerns relating to the offender's passes or parole. I think that is important and this bill does take that into consideration.

It is also important to note the second area which has to do with native and aboriginal justice. There is a very important consideration here. Under clause 81, the minister:

—may enter into an agreement with an aboriginal community for the provision of correctional services to aboriginal offenders and for

payment by the Minister or by a person authorized by the Minister in respect of the provision of those services.

That is important and I cannot stress this too much because we have not been successful in dealing with our aboriginal people with respect to corrections. Our correctional incarceration has not worked with respect to aboriginal people and we have to review that in total in conjunction with other aspects of native justice.

In particular we are finding the aboriginal people are more resentful as a result of their incarceration and the fact that any treatment or rehabilitation factor is not being utilized or not having any effect.

For the ability to be able to say to the aboriginal people we are going to put them in a facility in an aboriginal community and allow the aboriginal community to work with this offender I think is a major step forward.

Clause 82 of the bill states:

The Service will establish a National Aboriginal Advisory Committee, and may establish regional and local aboriginal advisory committees, which shall provide advice to the Service on the provision of correctional services to aboriginal offenders.

I feel that is a major step forward because it is absolutely vital that we not bury our heads in the sand and say that by locking away offenders we have solved the problem. If there is anything that has become evident in our society, it is that we need changes to our correctional system and this bill does provide some of these changes.

I listened very carefully to the petition presented by the member for Halton—Peel and the concern that people in his riding have with respect to violence in our society. I understand the point he is making and I sympathize with the concerns of the people in his riding because there is a very great fear out there.

In my constituency of Cape Breton—The Sydneys, we always took pride in the fact we were a non-violent society, a close society, a close community and cared for one another. We have had 10 murders in the last 22 months and that was before the horrendous shooting of four people in a McDonald's restaurant in Sydney River. This is just cold-blooded murder and we cannot ignore it exists in our communities. No community is exempt. If it