

Government Orders

• (1200)

I think, as well, of the concerns that have been publicly and forcefully expressed by the National Action Committee on the Status of Women concerning the nature of the apprehension a woman must have under the current provisions of the bill.

Over time these concerns may prove warranted but we will not know that. We will not have any formal mechanism in place to review those questions and come to those conclusions in the absence of the amendment proposed here today.

I bear in mind that, although it is true this bill had all-party support in committee, it went through clause-by-clause study of this radically new departure in three hours. I know my colleague, the hon. member for New Westminster—Burnaby, proposed six amendments some of which were accepted. There was a raft of government amendments. But in three hours they tore through the bill in committee.

It may be that that is necessary. It may be that such times are required to get the bill through the House before we adjourn next week. If that is required, so be it.

However, even allowing that that haste is required, again I say that prudence dictates a fixed review. I commend the idea to the members of this House. Do not abandon that potentially extremely useful tool.

A review in five years will harm no one. It will cost comparatively little if anything and will give us a safeguard that any prudent House would wish to set in place.

Having said that let me conclude by saying that we wish Godspeed to this bill. We look forward to its coming into force as rapidly as possible because we know there is a stalking problem out there.

I do not believe there is a community in this country that has been left untouched by the terrible tragedy of women being murdered because they had the ill fortune at some point to be associated with an unbalanced, pathological male.

I know in my community this has happened more than once in and around the city of Edmonton. The most recent case that springs to mind included circumstances

where the woman was being stalked and her family went to the police and said: "This is happening. We need help". That help was not forthcoming.

It is hoped under this act that help will come. Nothing we do here can bring back to life those women who have been murdered in our communities. However it is hoped that what we do here today will prevent such murders in future.

We commend to the House this amendment. It is certainly our intention regardless to support the bill.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think you might find unanimous consent of the House that at the conclusion of report stage the House proceed directly into the third reading stage of this bill.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I want to compliment the parliamentary secretary for having had some discussions beforehand. Certainly this did not catch this member by surprise.

This is the way a good many bills can be dealt with especially when there is such a need to fill a very obvious gap in our jurisprudence with all the problems that have been mentioned about whether in the hurry to do this before we break all those issues have been addressed.

However the reason I speak is that I commend the parliamentary secretary for doing it this way. I totally resent again the government House leader imposing Standing Order 78(1) during report stage and then moving to complete report stage and third reading all at once.

I know this is not the time to discuss that but I just want to compliment the parliamentary secretary. This is the way bills can move rather than using that tremendous gag of time allocation which makes a travesty of this place.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is there unanimous consent to debate third reading after the concurrence motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.