JURIES (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 339)

PRISONS (CORRECTIONAL SERVICES) (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 340)

SUMMARY OFFENCES (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 341)

SEXUAL OFFENCES (EVIDENCE AND PROCEDURE) BILL
(Serial 343)

JUSTICES (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 344)

POISONS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS (CRIMINAL CODE) AMENDMENT BILL
(Serial 346)

Bills presented and read a first time.

Mr ROBERTSON (Attorney-General): Mr Speaker, I move that the bills now be read a second time.

Members will no doubt recall that I have, on a number of occasions, informed them of the need for consequential amendments to give effect to the proposed passage of the Criminal Code Bill. I propose now to deal with those consequential amendments.

The first consequential amendment is the Bail (Criminal Code) Amendment Bill. I indicated in the ministerial statement made earlier in this sittings that it is proposed to delete the bail provisions from the Criminal Code as matters are adequately covered in the recently-commenced Bail Act. A few minor amendments are, however, required to sections 6 and 15 of the Bail Act to ensure proper cross-referencing to the code in those sections.

Mr Speaker, I shall next deal with the Electoral (Criminal Code) Amendment Bill. Members will note that part IV of division 3 of the proposed Criminal Code deals with corrupt and improper practices at elections. That division sets out a number of serious electoral offences. The provisions of the Electoral Act repealed by clauses 4, 5 and 6 of this bill are adequately covered by part IV of division 3 of the proposed Criminal Code. Section 117 of the Electoral Act relating to defamation of candidates is repealed by clause 6. This provision is adequately covered by part VI division 7 of the proposed Criminal Code dealing with criminal defamation.

It has been the intention of this government that there should be no distinction between married and unmarried persons with regard to competence and compellability in giving evidence. Accordingly, clause 4 of the Evidence (Criminal Code) Amendment Bill amends section 9 of the Evidence Act which deals with competency and compellability to give evidence. By this amendment, spouses will be both competent and compellable to give evidence in all criminal cases.

Clause 5 of the bill relates to the section 11 of the Evidence Act dealing with the right of reply. Schedule 4 of the Criminal Code sets out circumstances in which speeches may be made and their order. Clause 6 repeals section 26 of the Evidence Act relating to admissions by accused persons. That provision is