

NATIONAL POST

Tories' bid for tougher hit-and-run sentencing impeded by NDP, Bloc opposition

National Post

Thursday, March 10, 2005

Page: A6

Section: Canada

Byline: Peter O'Neil

Source: CanWest News Service

A Conservative bid to increase prison terms for hit-and-run offenders, dubbed "Carley's Law" in recognition of an Aldergrove, B.C., teen run over and left to die in 2003 by a repeat drunk driver, is being shot down in Parliament. Liberal, Bloc Quebecois and New Democratic Party MPs claim the bill is too harsh and would likely violate the Charter of Rights. "What it says to me is that this place called Ottawa is not responsive to what is really happening on the streets in other areas of the country," Conservative MP Randy White said yesterday. The bill, co-sponsored by Mr. White and fellow B.C. MP Dick Harris, would eliminate plea bargaining and set minimum sentences of four years for hit-and-run causing bodily harm and seven years for hit-and-run causing death.

Illustration:

- Black & White Photo: Randy White.

Idnumber: 200503100237

Edition: National

Story Type: News; Crime

Length: 129 words

Keywords: CRIME; HIT & RUN; PARLIAMENTARY BILLS; CANADA

Illustration Type: P