

*Government Orders*

government when we do not feel the government is being honest in its motives.

We could go through a number of these cases. Take, for example, just how controversial the Young Offenders Act is. You cannot deal with the Young Offenders Act in isolation.

In this country right now, we are going through a crisis on questions of safety and security. We find that Canadians are very concerned that they cannot walk down their streets. We have women who are extremely worried about violence in the home. We have, for the first time, reporting systems on violence against women. We have a caucus colleague here, who is supported by this caucus, who wants a royal commission on violence against women. There are several groups now, for example social policy and social planning groups across this country, which are interested in safety issues. The Young Offenders Act is sort of the tip of the iceberg. But if this government only wants us to deal with the tip of the iceberg, how will we ever get at the heart of the matter?

We see the reports from Statistics Canada this week that violent crime is up dramatically in almost every Canadian city, with the exception of Toronto. We read in the newspapers of this rise in crime—such as today, about a couple of particularly violent people who are allowed to be out on parole—and that upsets Canadians.

We cannot deal with the issue of safety and security by only dealing with the issue of criminality. The issue of security is that of using the role of the federal government to make sure that our society is safer and to make sure our larger cities are safer. Jail is the end product of a system which is unsafe. It makes people in this country feel unsafe in their daily activities, whether it is walking to work, walking home in the evening, living in an apartment by oneself, being an elderly person going out on payday when the old age cheque comes in, or on payday if they are between 55 and 65, and finding themselves in confrontation with people who wish to take away their grocery money.

In our city this happens frequently. We need to reach out, but we cannot reach out if the government presents us with situations where we cannot have good discussions about this. If you take away the committee system and if you take away opportunities to debate specific pieces of legislation brought forward, then we are left dealing

with the end product of a bad system and not the system itself.

Let me continue on for a minute with the question of safety. If you want to deal with the question of young offenders, you have to deal with gangs, race relations, employment opportunities and training and education issues. There are a whole number of things which come into play. The fact that they have failed is the reason that we have to deal with the issue of the Young Offenders Act.

The government came back to us and said: "We consider this to be all finished. It has passed report stage." We said: "Well just a minute. Let us discuss what we are trying to do here in the House. Let us listen to Canadians. Let us realize that Canadians are looking at safety for an unsafe city and nobody is there to protect them. We would like to use this opportunity to expand discussion, to see that our amendments are taken seriously and produce a wider debate in this House of Commons."

In the case of the federal environmental assessment, this party has taken the environmental process as being the benchmark of good government. When the so-called green plan was put forward we stood up in this House and, at that time, said: "This is a fraudulent process. It is not well thought out in its legislative framework. There has not been consultation with groups and with the provinces, and the minister does not know what the government really means by certain sections. We do not even think the money is in place." We stopped and said: "Let's review this environmental review process because this is a test of faith among Canadians for how the system should be working."

If you ask Canadians what really makes them proud in this country they will tell you that the one thing that makes them the most proud is the great sense of wilderness, the unspoiled space. We have a country so large and so full of resources that they do not want to see it put at risk. They ask the federal government to please show leadership. They ask the government not to get into discussions on devolution but to show leadership and assert the federal assessment process on environmental matters.

The government provides a piece of legislation which is very weak and one in which the Canadian people do not have confidence.