

go that far. But the rules do permit me to say that deception is taking place in this nation. These ministers have been on every program. They have been selling, endeavouring to persuade people, and to ingratiate themselves and their program, that murder, violence, rape and assault will be under control and that all parliament has to do is bring in gun control. I have not watched all the programs—

An hon. Member: You are lucky.

Mr. Woolliams:—and I do not know for sure whether they appeared with Carol Burnett or if they intervened on “Sesame Street,” but they certainly could have been on Rich Little’s show, and at least they tried to be the Six Million Dollar Men who never make mistakes. All this has been going on while prisoners have been escaping, and the correctional officers have been frustrated. Some of them have been held as hostages while prisoners escaped, to the extent that anyone might have thought he had tuned in to “Hogan’s Heroes”. Bill C-83 is really a legal poultice.

An hon. Member: Who wrote your speech?

Mr. Woolliams: Someone asked who wrote my speech? I might say right now that for good or for bad, I write my own speeches.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: If hon. members want corroboration of that, they can call my office and talk to Bonnie or Carol, my secretaries, and they will tell you how late they worked on Sunday. I have no \$100,000 researchers.

Bill C-83 is a legal poultice and will do little to counteract the statistics on crime, and crime itself. What is the cause of crime?

An hon. Member: Criminals.

Mr. Woolliams: Yes, I was about to answer. I will tell the House some of the causes underlying crime. The government has whittled away at laws which gave judges and courts power to restrain violent criminals. I am referring to easy bail regulations. The government permitted indiscreet day passes for violent and dangerous criminals and murderers. I have nothing against day passes provided there is an assurance of proper protection. Further, the government failed to implement programs of rehabilitation in penitentiaries, and failed to recognize that the destruction of the morale of correctional officers would make escape easy. Apart from these factors, if one can ignore them, one could say that the cause of crime is a social problem.

● (1610)

Indeed, the causes of crime are rooted in society. How many times have we heard the Solicitor General referring to statistics without foundation? This is his wishy-washy program. Really, it is the Prime Minister’s. The minister is implementing it, like a puppet, without uttering a word of disapproval or showing any sign of wilful disobedience. The minister alleges that violence is on the decrease. He and I were on the television together not long ago. He looked in the camera, with that honest look of his, and

Measures Against Crime

said, “There is no evidence murder is on the increase.” I went to his department and got the figures.

Mr. Allmand: I never said that.

Mr. Woolliams: I will get the tape and the minister can hear it in my office. In 1961 there were 185 reported murders; in 1962, 217; in 1963, 315; in 1964, 218. The murder figures go up, like inflation. In 1971 the reported murders increased to 426; in 1972 there were 479; in 1973, 474; and in 1974, 545. That is this government’s record of controlling violence and murder.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Woolliams: Go back over the newspaper columns of the past five years and you will find page after page of propaganda—at which this government is very good—telling the people of this country that violent crime is on the decrease. The government put out that propaganda. But something happened despite all the propaganda put out by the government opposite, a government never before equalled in ability to produce propaganda. The Canadian people turned against the government’s unworkable, jelly-like policies. Incidents of hijacking, kidnapping, murder, violence, rape and assault piled up day after day until the government had to produce a remedy to retain its position even if it lost its credibility. In their administration of justice they failed to solve the problem of crime, just as in the economy they failed to control inflation. I ask again, what is the cause of crime? I have shown the government’s contribution. I suggest that the real cause is the government’s economic policies, coupled with the problems our nation faces together with other nations.

As I have said on other occasions that the notion that crime can be ascribed to a single category of causes is erroneous. Violent crimes create a climate of fear in the streets of our growing cities. White-collar crime, in economic terms, is much less visible than violent crime, yet the material costs of crimes such as petty theft, consumer fraud, violations of the combines act, and embezzlement dwarf the economic cost of all crimes of violence. In order to control violent and white-collar crimes we must have laws that are practical and acceptable in the light of modern, new interpretations of life and human behaviour. As I said before, our laws must be practical and do the job they were designed to do. They must not be aimed at ordinary law-abiding citizens of this country. They must be aimed at those who ignore our laws and wilfully would ignore gun licence provisions. That is why I hoped that the minister, in amending the code, would do a good job and not merely scratch the surface.

The need for proper laws and proper law enforcement cannot be underestimated in the control of crime. I have felt for years that we must get at the breeding grounds of crime. Mr. Speaker, crime breeds in the cesspools of injustice and poverty in our urban slums, in fast-growing cities.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Woolliams: And what is the government doing? Today we hear that the Bank of Canada is to increase the interest rate. How can people borrow money to buy homes? Urban poverty makes people who dwell in the slums the