

*Supply*

I have some statistics on violent crime in Canada which include all categories: crimes of violence, property crimes, Criminal Code offences, drugs. From 1991 to 1992 there was a 6.3 per cent reduction in total crime. In 1993 there was a further 5 per cent reduction in crime. In 1994 there was an almost 5 per cent reduction in crime. Remarkably these are periods of a Liberal government. During the entire period of time this government has been in office crime has been and is being reduced in Canada.

• (1535)

This will not make headlines in local newspapers but the reality is crime is being reduced. I know the hon. member on the other side does not want to hear that, but these statistics are factual.

I will address what I consider some aspects with the problems of crime in our society. We have gone through a whole generation of young people whose only access has been the electronic media. Often the only babysitter of choice for a whole generation has been the electronic media, the television. We have glorified crime on television and a lot of these young people today cannot distinguish between pretend crime and real crime.

How do we want to address these real factors? The government, through the CRTC, is now trying to find ways to use the V chip to take violent acts in programming out of the home environment and allow parents to have the ability to filter out violent programming within their houses.

The hon. member is saying the Liberal government is doing nothing. I think this is a very profound thing which affects over a long period the attitudes and conduct among young offenders. Just by doing away with the Young Offenders Act we will not do away with crimes by young offenders.

It is time the Reform Party started talking about real problems and real solutions instead of just saying hang them and they will go away.

I wish the member would address some of those real problems.

**Mr. White (Fraser Valley West):** Madam Speaker, I read seven solutions and within each one there were other issues. It has taken us months and months of research and some guy stands up and says we have simple solutions and he does not hear how Reform will solve problems. The members on the government side are not even listening to what is being said. That is because the front bench tells says: "We will do what we want and you guys will be told how it goes".

What makes me really sick about all this is to have somebody from that side roll out the demographics, roll out the statistical data, to tell us it is a 6.3 per cent reduction crime and then a 4.9 per cent. One of the national parole people phoned me one day.

Madam Speaker, the hon. member had five minutes. Surely I can get—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** I am sure the hon. member realizes that the debate time is 10 minutes and questions and comments are 5 minutes. You have 30 seconds left.

**Mr. White (Fraser Valley West):** Madam Speaker, I would ask the House, if this member gets five minutes—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** The hon. member for Durham had four minutes. You have been speaking for 30 seconds and you have 30 seconds left.

**Mr. White (Fraser Valley West):** Thanks a lot. When I get calls from the parole board saying that we have an 87 per cent success rate, I say that is nice, it has a 13 per cent failure rate. They had better think about this over there. It is the 13 per cent who are coming through the doors. It is the 13 per cent plus their families who are worried—

**The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Maheu):** Resuming debate, the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice.

**Mr. Russell MacLellan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.):** Madam Speaker, I will be sharing my time with the hon. member for Brandon—Souris.

• (1540)

The hon. member for Fraser Valley West has made some interesting allegations which I do not think are quite fair. The government has done a great deal in the areas the member mentioned with respect to victim impact statements. Recent amendments to the Young Offenders Act require victim impact statements. Under section 745, statements from victims are permitted and encouraged. The judges are to request statements from not only the victims or the families of the victims in this case but friends and neighbours of the victims.

The parole board now has to seek out statements from victims. It must give victims an indication of when someone is to be released who may endanger that person. That was not the case before but it has recently been the case. To my knowledge it is being implemented by the parole board.

There are improvements being made, in particular in the areas the member mentioned.

The assertion that there has been no attention paid to the role of victims is not quite fair. I wonder whether this assertion is not based on confusion about the purposes and principles being applied in criminal justice interventions.

Surprisingly, until recently no such statement existed in the Criminal Code. This situation was at odds with the degree of attention that we pay in Parliament to matters relating to tax, international trade and unemployment insurance. It is at the stage of sentencing that the criminal justice system most consciously and visibly expresses its denunciation of behaviour; its attempts to deter or incapacitate people from further wrongdoing.