

The Address—Mr. Rondeau

should be dealt with. The Government of Canada, however, refuses to recognize that such claims have any substance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired—unless, of course, there is unanimous consent to his continuing. Is that agreed?

An hon. Member: Go on.

Mr. Barnett: I am content to let the matter rest there, Mr. Speaker. I can pursue it again if necessary. There will be other opportunities.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I wish to congratulate the mover (Mr. Cullen) and the seconder (Mr. Marceau) of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. Those hon. members thus had one of their first opportunities to express their views in the house and, above all, to point out to a certain extent the needs of their respective constituencies.

I wish to call the attention of the house to two problems that I consider extremely serious and which were not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne.

On several occasions, since 1967, I have addressed oral or written questions to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Basford) concerning fraudulent bankruptcies in Canada.

If you refer to the official documents tabled in the house, you can see that a revision of the legislation on bankruptcy was promised. Mention of it was made in the Speech from the Throne and in the legislation introduced for this purpose. Up to now nothing in the government attitude leads us to expect an early inquiry into or revision of the Bankruptcy Act.

This problem is worsening from day to day. In the province of Quebec alone during the first three months of 1968 \$32 million were lost in fraudulent bankruptcies and the figures we have for this year are even more alarming.

This loss of \$32 million in three months represents an average of \$11 million a month for the province of Quebec alone. This means also a loss of about half a million dollars a day because of really fraudulent bankruptcies. These figures spread fear and shock in industrial and trade circles, but it seems that during the last three years the federal government did not carry out its promises.

According to *The Gazette* of Friday, October 3, 1969, one of the officers in charge of fraudulent bankruptcies in Montreal claimed, and I quote:

• (5:10 p.m.)

[*English*]

Fraudulent bankruptcies in Quebec have accounted for a record-breaking \$32,000,000 in commercial losses in the first three months of 1969, a Montreal Police Department expert said yesterday.

"The illicit trade has grown to such proportions in recent years that I'm convinced the revenue obtained in fraudulent bankruptcies is used to finance organized crime projects," Lieutenant Leo Talbot told the conference...

Lt. Talbot said he finds it difficult to explain why efforts to contain this type of crime have not been more intense.

[*Translation*]

Our police forces are wondering how it is that the federal government has done nothing in the last two years, at least, to carry out its promise to introduce a new measure in respect of the Bankruptcy Act.

In spite of the promises made in the house, nothing in the bills tabled last week by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) gives us any hope that such a review will be undertaken.

Although I cannot discuss it at length during the time allotted me, I want to raise another problem which is extremely important, in my view. It deals with another sphere of the economy and has to do specifically with our young people.

It is about the drug problem which is as frightening, if not more, as that of bankruptcies. In the newspaper *La Presse*, on May 14, 1969, this is what one could read:

North Americans consume 25 tons of aspirin daily.

Each year, Canada imports legally 33 tons of barbituric powder, that is an average of 7.4 tablets per Canadian.

Canadians buy legally each year 71 million tons of stimulating amphetamins.

—These facts have been revealed by Mr. Keith Kincaid, a journalist who has done research in this field and published the article from which I just read an extract.

I go on with the quotation.

It is obvious that Canadians live with chemical products intended to make them forget their worries, ease tension, bring sleep, improve their dispositions, fight weariness and stimulate energy.

It is somewhat frightening to see how many doctors prescribe drugs they hardly know, combine incompatible products which could have a dangerous effect...

Dr. S. J. Holmes, psychiatrist from Toronto, explains this as the symptom of a sickness deeply rooted in socio-economic conditions which produce dissatisfaction, conflict and tension.