

*Measures Against Crime*

In the province of Quebec, we would have had for the first time the opportunity to have an efficient Commission of Inquiry into Organized Crime, but because of the weakness of our legislation, stemming from the definition of the jurisdiction, all the main witnesses in this inquiry are today beyond the reach of the commission. They are under sunny skies while their victims are still here. I wonder whether the federal government has not complicated matters and taken the risk of restricting the powers of our provincial commission.

Everybody acknowledged that the work undertaken by the commission of inquiry was positive and ingenious. This work was within its jurisdiction but federal intervention was required to stop it all. I wonder if the amendment moved by the federal government will not stand once more in the way of this provincial commission. Could it be because the commission was too successful when it began to unearth political machinations by the ruling party, which was not a pretty sight to watch and an even more disturbing thing to hear? When the most notorious names of the underworld are among the campaign managers of a major political party, what more can you expect? I am asking the minister whether the job of the 26 men board will be to check the work occasionally too efficient of our commission?

● (2100)

It is a question that all Canadians are asking themselves after the legal incidents that took place in Quebec these past few months. The people of Quebec have lost confidence in the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) and have suspicions about Canadian justice. It is this government's responsibility to restore the confidence they used to have in our justice. And surely it is not by opposing 90 per cent of the people that some ministers will restore their image.

Can you believe that you will accomplish something if you restrict the number of firearms among honest people, fine them if one ever happens to forget or neglect to bring back his shotgun or museum piece? When one sees how this government acts, one wonders who are really guilty of crimes perpetrated in Canada. The honest man or the criminal? Why is there so much violence in Canada? Is the government not primarily responsible for this violence with all these anti-social laws that were put forward in recent years in this House?

Let us bring forward more human laws and violence will decrease! Let us legislate for the Canadian people instead of doing it only because of high finance. Let us stop fiddling with protective policies or indulging in partisan profitability and we will have order and peace that the minister is wishing. Everyday, this government acts in a discriminatory way towards the poor by not providing them with minimum wages. The government further promotes violence among working people and low income heads of families by allowing and contributing to interest rates of 12 to 40 per cent, depending on the credibility of the borrower.

All this is designed to safeguard the interests of those who fill up the electoral funds of parties elected by big wheels. Therefore it is useless to strengthen control on weapons held by poor people if this government keeps on shining up its economic weapon, the worst of all. As

[Mr. Gauthier (Roberval).]

regards investigations and firearms control, I hope at least that the government will give this responsibility to the various police forces, thus avoiding hiring a whole army of control agents to go around the country.

Wiretapping was discussed a while ago: the representative of the New Democratic Party said he was against it. I am for it. Anyone who is against wiretapping has something to hide. It is the supreme technique for policemen who want to make a serious inquiry. They could very well bug my office, my house, everywhere, it would not bother me, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Prosper Boulanger (Mercier):** But it would me, Mr. Speaker, though I have nothing to hide: but it would annoy me, disturb me.

**Mr. Gauthier (Roberval):** It would not bother me in the least. I am not talking about wiretapping to see what goes on in a home, but wiretapping criminals. I say that, for our policemen, it is the only sturdy tool, to enable them to do good work or make a conclusive inquiry.

We have seen it at work in Quebec, during the inquiry on organized crime. To my mind, the government must continue to allow policemen to use wiretapping when dealing with murders, the underworld, drugs and all other crimes committed today.

Mr. Speaker, there are many clauses in this legislation whose adoption I would have been in favour; but since we have to do with an omnibus bill and since on the other hand there is some clauses I cannot accept, I will certainly not vote for the whole bill, because I could not swallow such a piece which is too big for the moment. I would have liked this bill to be divided in two or three parts; this would have been easier for us to dissect and to vote on each of these parts.

[English]

**Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Windsor-Walkerville):** Mr. Speaker, Bill C-83 is a very important piece of legislation. As its title indicates, it is an act for the better protection of Canadian society against the perpetration of violent and other crime. It deals with matters which are considered crucial by Canadians at the present time.

I am sorry that the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt) has already left as I want to say that I think he was being somewhat unrealistic in attacking the bill because it does not deal with all the causes of crime, as he charged. As I think all members of the House know, it is questionable if legislation ever really gets to the causes of crime at all and, if it does, it is even more questionable if it is criminal legislation that does so. Crime has broad roots, and obviously through legislation we can hardly grapple with crime in all its aspects. Yet this bill does come to a very realistic treatment of at least the effects of crime in our society today, and certainly proposes some solutions for the problems that we face.

What is important about the legislation is that it adjusts our criminal code still further to social change. If there is anything that is important about the law—and many things could be said to be of importance about it—perhaps the most important thing of all is the fact that law must constantly reflect the society that it has to govern. Law is not something that just comes from the sky; it is some-