

before. I am not overly familiar with conditions that exist in jurisdictions in the southern provinces, but I can say that in the Yukon the incidence of juvenile offences has increased dramatically. Nowhere is the gap more evident between law enforcement agencies and young people in our society at the moment than in the jurisdiction I represent.

How great a problem do we have with juvenile delinquency in Canada? It is curious that notwithstanding the tremendous interest and, indeed, even concern on the part of the public over delinquency, most people when questioned about the extent of the local problem hasten to assure the questioner that they do not really have a problem in their community. Generally they will point to the nearest large industrial city and indicate that the delinquency problem may exist there, but "not in our town". Our experience in Canada seems to correspond with that of an American observer who commented on the fact that a peculiar characteristic of the half million youngsters who are reported annually in the courts of the United States is their anonymity in the eyes of the general public. He said that they seem never to have names, faces or local addresses.

We have some information on the nature of the problem. We know that nine out of ten juveniles who are found guilty by the juvenile courts are students, and that two out of three are in grade 6, 7, 8 or 9. A high proportion of them are one year or more behind the average grade for their age. Eight out of 10 are between 12 and 15 years of age. That fact puts me in mind of the provision in the bill respecting the arrest, apprehension and detention of young persons. It also puts me in mind of a case current in my jurisdiction involving a 15-year old who has been charged with murder. For three months that 15-year old was kept in a correctional institution utilized for the detention of adult convicts.

There are no facilities in my jurisdiction for the detention of young persons. Perhaps the Solicitor General (Mr. Goyer) will take that into consideration, because I think that this lack has a chain-like ramification, right down the line, with respect to the treatment of young offenders. For instance, there were no facilities for the detention of this youngster who was charged with murder, and as a result he had to be kept in an institution for the detention of adult convicts. Because of that the Crown had to apply to have his case transferred to the adult courts. It was not until the territorial administration relented and undertook to provide for the custody and detention of this youngster that he was placed where he is now, in the detention home for young offenders recently established in my jurisdiction.

We know, Sir, that the rate of juvenile delinquency is increasing at a faster pace than is the general population. The increase—these statistics I have simply selected for the purpose of random comparison—between 1957 and 1961 should cause us to reflect. Between those years covering a five-year span the number of juvenile convictions for breaking and entering increased by 70 per cent. The number of convictions for theft and similar offences also increased by 70 per cent. Two out of three of the offences for which juveniles are convicted in Canada in

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juvenile court involve breaking and entering, theft or possession of stolen property.

If there is one thing we can say with assurance about juvenile delinquency, it is that it is not a new problem. The Greek scholars were concerned about it in their time, just as we are in ours. But I think we must be careful not to fall prey to the idea that juvenile delinquency has always been with us and that we are bound to have more of it as our population grows. That, again, is too much like a purely statistical approach. It can lead too easily to an attitude bordering on fatalism. If we accept the proposition that we are bound to have more juvenile delinquency, and sit back and wait for it to come, I suggest that the only result will be that we will have a lot more of it than we expect.

It is, of course, a difficult problem. It requires co-ordination and constant effort. But something can be done about it. The introduction of a procedure and the erection of a technical structure for dealing with youthful offenders as set out in Bill C-192 will not be sufficient. While constitutional responsibility in fields like this is divided among the various levels of government, the federal government can at least use its resources as the national government to assist in solving the problem on a nation wide basis. Bill C-192 certainly will not solve the problem because it fails to strike at its roots.

Another aspect of the over-all problem is the co-ordination of efforts of municipal and provincial police forces with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in an effort to prevent syndicated, organized crime from moving into Canada. The gambling, narcotics and prostitution rackets engaged in by those organizations can provide a fertile breeding ground for delinquency, as indeed has been happening. One of the suggestions that has been made, for instance, is that a program for teachers be instituted in the provinces in order to enable teachers to detect signs of delinquency and to equip them to deal with it.

Nowhere is information more woefully inadequate with respect to the implementation of this kind of program than in the field of narcotics. If the true statistics were known in this connection, they would stagger the imaginations of even the most lassitudinous and complacent members of the adult world. In my jurisdiction the situation has now reached the stage where a young person only has to decide whether he or she will use narcotics and they will be available if the decision is made to use them. This does not apply only to the older generation; it applies both to high schools and elementary schools, right down to children who are 12 years old.

● (4:40 p.m.)

I have had personal experience with a young girl aged 12 who was not using mild drugs but hard drugs. Of course, the habit costs money. It breeds the crimes of breaking and entering and theft to support the habit. This is the kind of program, similar to the one announced by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Munro) a short while ago, that requires to be implemented in conjunction with legislation like Bill C-192. The program announced by the Minister of