

*Organized Crime***PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION***[English]*

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Penner): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—External Affairs—Representation of Palestinians at Geneva Conference—Canadian Position; the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez)—Consumer Affairs—Alleged failure of powdered milk processors and retailers to give consumers benefit of subsidy—Government action; the hon. member for Provencher (Mr. Epp)—Weights and Measures—Metric system—Compensation to schools for cost of conversion.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS*[English]***BUSINESS OF SUPPLY****ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—REQUEST FOR IMMEDIATE
GOVERNMENT ACTION TO COMBAT ORGANIZED CRIME**

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wagner:

That this House, noting that international and interprovincial crime rings are operating out of control in the drug trade in British Columbia, the loan shark business in Ontario and in mafia-type conspiracies in Quebec, urges the government to act immediately—directly and through aid to the provinces—to protect the public and to bring these criminals to justice.

Mr. Gus MacFarlane (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) for bringing before us a matter which all of us, including the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand), consider to be of urgent concern.

None of us like the thought of invasion of our privacy and the taking over of our daily lives by crime syndicates, or habits promoted by them. By the same token I believe there are different ways to tackle this problem.

Many members have concentrated on police work or our laws. I tend to believe we are being a little more than unfair if we are continually to make references to those who have served us, and attempted to serve us well, by saying they are not serving us. Many of our policemen and police forces are doing a great service for us. This is recognized in each community. Indeed, many of our laws are framed in a way which were intended to help.

Unfortunately, this is somewhat of a two-edged sword. Sometimes in the framing of a law, someone uses life like a rock, and the law as a chisel, and tries to carve it in their own likeness. Then they try to impose on others their thoughts as to how life should be.

● (1740)

Some of us look on life as an ocean, and on the laws as sandcastles which crumble as the ocean moves. We hope there will be some around us and among those who make our laws and enforce them, who have this kind of under-

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

standing. I reject the idea that discipline will get us respect. I believe discipline is the result of respect. Therefore I believe the discipline demanded by society must to a great extent be achieved by itself.

Far too little has been said about the young in this discussion. Who are all these people who sell these drugs? Who are all these people in Vancouver? Who are all these people in the Atlantic provinces? Who are all these people in Montreal?

Mr. Ellis: Ask the minister. He should know.

Mr. MacFarlane: Are they people none of us will ever know? Are they people that only the minister or a police officer or a judge will know? Are we not the ones who must take the responsibility, rather than placing it on the shoulders of someone else? At what point do we accept this responsibility? At what point do we ask ourselves whether they are juvenile delinquents or whether they are the result of delinquent adults?

The hon. member for Sainte-Hyacinthe comes from an area I knew very well, which I was familiar with, Verdun, Quebec. I remember that we organized a series of open-air dances in co-operation with the police, though after a good deal of opposition from other quarters. We noticed that the incidence of delinquency dropped on those evenings. The police stopped the traffic for the young people; they became friends of the young people, servants of the young people, and servants of the community. As a result the young people respected them. Basically, a healthy respect existed in that community between the young people and the police force.

The Le Dain Commission Report was not the be all and end all as far as drugs are concerned. Many things have changed since that report was issued. It is about time many of us, including policemen and citizens generally, read more about drugs and discovered that this is only a passing history.

I do recall one passage in the report—it did not appear to receive wide publicity at the time—about the situation in one of the maritime provinces. It appears that the citizens did not know what was going on, and even the mayor of Moncton did not know what was going on, but when a questionnaire was sent to one of the schools they discovered that 60 per cent of the young people had experienced soft drugs, acid, or hard drugs. No one mentioned that 85 per cent of the teachers were involved. This was in a small community. I wonder what might be happening in a large community such as the one I come from, Mr. Speaker.

I am not afraid to say for the record that the people of Hamilton Mountain are concerned. They are so concerned that they have started a full-scale drug education program. They have set up a community centre with special courses for nurses, doctors and social workers who attend. They believe they should be dealing with the situation from a knowledge of drugs and the circumstances in which they are taken. Too often I hear it said that the law should take care of these offenders.

I have nothing to say against lawyers, but I must face the fact that when standing before the court each one of them can only see how correct he is—not one is called upon to question his personal position when defending a