

Organized Crime

ment of the attorney general of British Columbia has initiated a new program called CLEU or Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit. As part of this program, members of the RCMP and the Vancouver city police work together on major criminal problems. A recent successful drug investigation was concluded by a combined group of 16 RCMP members and nine Vancouver city police members.

Mr. Speaker, I should now like to explain to the House the assistance given by the federal government to the provinces in the form of Royal Canadian Mounted Police, national police, services. The government provides and bears the total cost of a national police service to all Canadian law enforcement agencies as one way of helping to combat crime in Canada. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is the major and central criminal intelligence body in Canada and must be in a position to provide full and comprehensive facilities for the exchange of criminal intelligence with other police forces. These national police services include: (a) an identification branch and central fingerprint bureau; (b) six crime detection laboratories, located in New Brunswick, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba; (c) the Canadian Police Information Centre; (d) the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada; (e) Interpol; and (f) the Canadian Police College.

Of most direct significance to this debate, particularly as it concerns crime rings and criminal conspiracies, is the Criminal Intelligence Service Canada which I should like to describe in some detail. In 1962, it was decided to create a Canada-wide network of criminal intelligence units to combat the growing problem of organized crime in a co-ordinated and efficient manner. In 1970, Criminal Intelligence Service Canada was founded and it presently consists of 23 national criminal intelligence sections, six airport special squads, three special surveillance sections and 46 intelligence sections from other police departments and enforcement agencies. Two types of intelligence are handled—strategic intelligence and tactical intelligence. Strategic intelligence confirms the existence of organized crime elements and identifies the members of the group, their criminal activities, internal administration, movements, sources of income and vulnerability. Tactical intelligence is the gaining of information for prosecution and is subject to the rules of evidence.

The Criminal Intelligence Service, because it promotes a close working relationship between police forces, has made possible a number of successful joint force operations. During the past three years, joint force operations have resulted in excess of 250 criminal charges being laid, they have prevented at least two murders and located one of Canada's ten most wanted criminals. In addition, many notable criminals have been identified and a secret organization along the lines of the old mafia code was found to exist in Canada. During the past year, many of the efforts of the Criminal Intelligence Service have been directed toward the high priority areas of drug enforcement and commercial fraud. Hon. members may wish to note that in 1969-70 the national crime intelligence sections numbered 65 men in total. This year, 1974-75, the strength of these sections has been more than doubled to 146 members.

I turn now, Mr. Speaker, to the specific problem of loan sharking, that is, the loaning of money at exorbitant rates

[Mr. Allmand.]

of interest. This is a matter of great concern to the government. I am advised by the RCMP that this is one of the most lucrative practices used by criminals. Loan sharking is difficult to detect, and under current legislation, chiefly involving the Small Loans Act, prosecution is not effective. For this reason my colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet), is preparing legislation for revision of the Interest Act. One feature of the proposed new legislation will be the licensing of all persons engaged in the business of lending money.

I am advised that loan sharking is in operation in many of our major cities. There appears to be no set interest rate on such loans; the majority run from 10 per cent to 35 per cent per week on the full amount borrowed. On occasion, criminals involved will borrow money at normal rates of interest and loan it out at exorbitant rates to establish themselves. Loan sharking also breeds other forms of crime, both directly and indirectly. On occasion, loans are made to finance illegal activities such as drug trafficking, gambling and robberies. Indirectly, other crimes are committed by victims as the only means to repay loans. This repayment could take the form of supplying the loan shark with information that can be used to assist in other criminal offences such as robberies. Because of lack of complaints from victims, it is almost impossible for the police authorities to accurately assess the seriousness of loan sharking operations throughout the country. We know a serious problem exists, however, and we propose to concentrate on work in this area.

Before I comment specifically on the matters raised by hon. members opposite, I should like to point out that the Department of the Solicitor General has, itself, as a principal objective, the prevention of crime and the protection of the public. I must remind the House that jurisdiction for the enforcement of the criminal law in Canada is broadly divided between the provincial governments and the federal government. The federal government legislates in the area of criminal law and for the most part the provinces enforce this legislation. The Criminal Code is enforced by provincial attorneys general—

Mr. Nielsen: Except in the Territories.

Mr. Allmand: Except in the Territories; the hon. member is correct. Other criminal law statutes, such as the Narcotics Control Act, are enforced by the federal government. With respect to the courts, judges are appointed by the federal government, and in many of the courts administration is conducted by the provinces. Probation comes under provincial jurisdiction; parole under federal jurisdiction. Jail sentences of less than two years are under provincial jurisdiction; longer sentences are within federal jurisdiction.

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So we have a very mixed jurisdiction in the area of criminal law. It is an area where it is extremely important that there be close co-operation not only between the federal and provincial governments but also between the federal, provincial and municipal governments. That having been said, Mr. Speaker, I believe that the federal government should take a leadership role in the criminal justice system. As a result, last year I called the first