

### Organized Crime

We must also consider organized crime in relation to corporate activity, whether it is in the area of environmental pollution or the breaking of environmental laws in an organized way by corporate decision-making or by criminal neglect on the part of corporate boards or management. That too is an organized crime and we must be vigilant about that type of activity as well.

When organizations that violate environmental laws, health and safety laws, or laws protecting workers, band together to try to influence the Members of the House, committees of the House or influence the Government to relax enforcement procedures, that too is evidence of organized crime influencing the legislative and administrative institutions of Canadian society.

The Hon. Member who spoke before me was concerned about the danger that this motion may scare people. Other Members may debate organized crime in this country and the extent to which it should be addressed. I think we should focus on what the motion says, which is to consider to what extent organized criminal activity is connected to the legislative, judicial and administrative institutions of Canadian society.

This would be a timely inquiry and one that should consider the activities of lobbyists and lobbying groups. I think this question ought to be studied and a joint committee of this Parliament and the other place would be the appropriate body to study it. I support the motion.

**Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, no one can dispute that there is organized crime in Canada. However, the motion before us today would seem to suggest that Canada does not have enough legal mechanisms to counter organized crime and those who live by it.

The mechanisms we have may not be perfect, but they are continually being improved to ensure that Canadians can live in a safe country.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may describe, for the benefit of the Hon. Member for Trinity, a few of the mechanisms that already exist for investigating and fighting organized crime. The police, Crown counsel and the regulatory authorities have used these mechanisms successfully to render harmless those criminals who would otherwise profit from society's illicit lusts and cravings.

[English]

First, let us take the Criminal Code. It contains, in section 31(2), a provision which enables the court to declare "forfeit" the possession of property obtained by crime. Similarly, the Narcotic Control Act allows for the seizure of anything relating to an offence under the Act. Clever use of the provisions of these two Acts has led to the ill-gotten gains of the organized criminal drug trafficker being seized by the courts.

The Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) spoke also of the ingenuity of the criminal. I dare say that we have a tremendous amount of ingenuity in our police forces and our research institutions. As they develop more effective techniques of criminal analysis, that ingenuity is on the leading edge of keeping up with and in fact ahead of the criminal element that exists in our country.

Another section of the Criminal Code allows for the same punishment to be given for a conspiracy to commit an offence as for the offence itself. This is a particularly valuable weapon against organized crime because it allows police to be proactive in their investigations. By the means of legal wiretaps, they can follow the planning of a crime and then step in and arrest the offenders before the crime itself has been actually committed. This can stop illicit drugs hitting the street, release the loan shark victim from the threat of violence, and prevent the bookie from laying off his bets with another organized criminal in the United States. In addition, the whole organized criminal gang can be prosecuted at the same time as co-conspirators.

[Translation]

In the past ten years, this tactic has been used successfully against organized criminals. Thanks to the help of judges who are more inclined to impose severe penalties on drug traffickers and want to acquire a better understanding of the mechanisms of organized crime, there have been some real mopping-up operations recently.

[English]

I used the words *peines plus sévères*. I call upon the Justices of our country to vigorously enforce severe penalties which I believe are the deterrent element.

In one Canadian jurisdiction, 400 organized criminals of one sort or another were put behind bars, rendered inactive, or induced to flee this country to escape prosecution. All this within five years of the decision being taken to declare legal war on organized crime.

The criminal courts are not the only battle front on which the war is being waged. Neither are all the soldiers, police and prosecutors. As vendors of illegal goods and services, organized criminals frequently cross swords with the regulatory agencies in our country, both federal and provincial. Customs and income tax officers, stock exchange and liquor licensing officials are just as involved in suppressing organized criminal activity as are police officers and Crown attorneys.

● (1440)

There is a program you may know of, Sir, called Crime Stoppers which evolved from the U.S. It is now very successfully established in the National Capital Region in co-operation with the public, police forces, the judiciary and the legal community. I want to mention Richard Raymond, from Raymond Steel, Bruce Hillary, Sketchley Cleaners; Sgt. Harrison of the Ottawa Police Force, Gary Grant from Sheffield Graphics and Doris Johnson from Crime Stoppers,