

*Oral Questions***ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**ORGANIZED CRIME—REQUEST FOR NATIONAL INQUIRY**

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice. Given the renewed evidence last night on the second part of the CBC television series on organized crime that a great deal of the problem which is related to organized crime relates to matters clearly within federal jurisdiction, such as loan sharking, narcotics and immigration irregularities, will the Minister of Justice act immediately to have a national inquiry, preferably in the form of a royal commission, look into the state of organized crime in Canada and to recommend means by which we may take action to protect Canadians against organized crime in this country?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, essentially I would say what I said yesterday and what I said in committee this morning, that the most effective way of dealing with this problem is—

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Here we go again.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford:—for this parliament to deal with legislation which is currently before it, one being the Immigration Act and the other being, more importantly, Bill C-51.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): What about the Historic Sites and Monuments Act?

Mr. Basford: Hon. members opposite seem very sensitive after last night's show.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): The whole country is sensitive.

An hon. Member: Where is their hero today?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I can only read and adopt the view of the Canadian chiefs of police who said on Friday, in reference to the passage of those wiretap amendments—

An hon. Member: They were in favour of capital punishment, as well.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. Leader of the Opposition on a supplementary question.

Mr. Clark: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The only group which is not showing sensitivity to this problem is the government of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Clark: The government of Canada refuses to take the action that it should take and pretends that somehow or other wiretapping would have stopped the Five Dragons or any of the other indications of illegality which were made very clear on the program last night. What is clear to the House of Commons and to the country, if not to the government, is that a mere improvement in police technology is not going to stop organized crime.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hees: You have got to be against it, not for it.

Mr. Clark: What is needed is a determination by this government to fight organized crime.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Paproski: Right on.

Mr. Clark: I ask the Minister of Justice, now, why he will not call an inquiry into organized crime in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I had some difficulty hearing the question of the hon. Leader of the Opposition. I did hear him say, however, that what is needed is a clear determination by this parliament to pass some laws. I would agree with that—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford: This parliament has been warned since 1974, 1975, 1976 and 1977 by the police authorities of this country that by reason of the law of this land they are handicapped in dealing with the organizers of organized crime. If there is determination needed anywhere, it is determination by the gentlemen opposite—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: What about capital punishment?

Mr. Basford:—to take their courage in their hands and pass some laws.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House will realize that the principal combatants here are engaged in what is essentially a debate on measures which are before the House. If there is to be a use of the question period, it is to seek information. If there is to be—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Surely the House will understand—order, please—that in the exchange that has just taken place we have departed from the format of a question seeking