

*Supply—Justice*

Some members gave statistics. Crime has increased by almost 10 per cent in Canada in 1964, as compared to the previous year, and by over 20 per cent compared to 1962. That is what the dominion bureau of statistics tells us. If you study the kinds of offenses, the picture becomes alarming, particularly with regard to serious offenses, those which put in danger the security of the citizen, his good faith, his desire to live in a free country, a nice country.

It is noted that capital murders increased from 148 in 1962 to 162 in 1964; that attempted murders increased from 83 in 1962 to 122 in 1964, while common assaults, except indecent assaults, reached 27,818 in 1962 and 40,460 in 1964. I could go on to about ten other fields and establish very easily, with the support of exact figures, that crime is increasing at a very fast pace and in an alarming way in Canada. There is no need to deal at length with the figures, because they are convincing and the situation is obvious.

The causes of this increased criminality should be investigated, the networks exposed and the underworld activities made known.

It is up to parliament, and especially to the government, to take the initiative and I think the government and the Department of Justice would thus greatly enhance their positions.

The Minister of Justice would surely increase his stature considerably if he remained aloof from the overly partisan attacks from the opposite side of the house and made a fine gesture, the gesture of a man aware of Canadian justice, and granted a national inquiry on criminality, its causes, its scope and on the remedial measures indicated, not only for juvenile delinquency but for all those groups of citizens. They are not numerous but rule in many areas that should be unmasked to improve the soundness and the decency of the whole country.

There is also within the Department of Justice the problem of police co-operation. We hear statements in the house to the effect that the R.C.M.P. is doing excellent work. I, for one, have no charge to bring against the R.C.M.P. and I am under the impression that it is a widely experienced police corps. But, the statements made by the Minister of Justice of Quebec are certainly not incongruous. For instance, he stated on January 14, 1966, that the R.C.M.P. refuse to provide the information requested by other police corps in the fight against organized crime. But that

is a responsible man, the Quebec Minister of Justice. I am not ready to accept completely all his comments, but here is the statement of a responsible man which contradicts other statements made by the federal Minister of Justice and other members of the house.

I think that those controversies and disagreements should disappear in the interest of the administration of justice so that police forces throughout the country may co-operate more fully and exchange the information necessary for a joint and effective campaign against organized crime.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to refer briefly to fraudulent bankruptcies. To be quite frank, what we have been told in the Mercier report, which is a provincial report, or in statements made by other Canadians, in this house or elsewhere, is enough to make one's hair stand on end, even if one does not have much hair left. Looking across the country, it is especially in Ontario and Quebec that we find strongly organized networks and that we see numerous companies offhandedly sharing profits that should be distributed among honest people. Those are true facts which are substantiated in the Mercier report. Those are grievances recognized by the Department of Justice. The minister cannot look at all that with indifference and apathy. On the contrary, he must act with impartiality, firmness and foresight. It is up to him as Minister of Justice to take immediate action. And that is why I say that a national commission set up either outside the house or under the Senate, and which members of the Lower House could attend, appears absolutely necessary. When I say this, I am not necessarily supporting a political leader or a political party. I represent the average Canadians of my riding, my region or my province who believe that if the government ignored more the attacks of the opposition and if it raised itself—because the Department of Justice is a highly important field—above such partisan contingencies, it would exalt itself and win over the admiration of thousands of Canadians.

The Minister of Justice should take positive steps to establish law and order in the country so that we have a clear blue sky again.

That is what we expect from the hon. Minister of Justice. I am sure he will prove equal to the task but he must act and without delay.

Mr. Chairman, no amendment has been made to our federal Bankruptcy Act in the last 17 years.