

*Government Orders*

government. We have had this happen. It happened with numerous situations we have studied.

I have openly criticized the government for failing to adopt the recommendations produced by committees, not only the justice committee but other committees. These reports collect dust in a maze of bureaucratic bookshelves. This is not the case with this bill.

Let me explain exactly what happened. We were asked by an order of reference from the House of Commons to study Bill C-67. We studied it. We came up with 16 recommendations. We tabled a report in the House of Commons. The government came back and accepted 13 of those recommendations and many of them have been integrated into Bill C-36, the corrections and conditional release bill.

• (1350)

Canadians have always felt threatened by a parole system that jeopardized their safety. Other people have spoken of the Gingras case. It is absolutely ludicrous that we should have a justice system where a murderer, who is known to be dangerous, should be allowed to go to the West Edmonton Mall to celebrate his birthday, overpower a guard, and murder two more people. One man was shot in the back of the head, execution style, and a young girl was strangled with her own shoelaces. This is a terrible, terrible situation.

There has been reference to the Legere case. There were mistakes made there. It is no wonder that the public does not have confidence in the judicial system, in the penitentiary system that they should have.

There is talk about a 99.93 per cent success rate. Any failures are too many and this bill goes a long way.

Let me tell you other things the government is doing. The importance of public safety is reflected in other areas. The firearms legislation restricts possession of dangerous weapons and provides better screening of firearms acquisition applications. Surely that will help. It is supported by so many people, the police chiefs association, among others. We are bringing in amendments to the Extradition Act to allow a more streamlined extradition process to prevent criminals from using our courts to avoid facing criminal charges in other countries. Is there something the matter with this? Why should Canada keep Charles Ng and Joseph Kindler in this country?

Who is bringing it forward? This government is bringing it forward. Canadians have witnessed a disturbing increase in violent acts carried out by young people. Bill C-12 proposes amendments to the Young Offenders Act allowing the courts better flexibility in sentencing youths who commit murder. Bill C-30 is before my committee right now. We will be meeting Wednesday morning on clause by clause study. We hope to report to the House very soon. There was great to-do made about being late. We were late not because we could not have reported on time, but because committee members would not come out and go through clause by clause. That will be done Wednesday morning. I just want to point that out to the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam. I hope he will be there Wednesday morning at 8.30.

Our commitment to public safety is clear and is reflected not only in Bill C-36 but in these other bills as well. I do not need to go through the highlights of this: the victims of crime to be formally recognized, judges may delay parole eligibility of violent offenders and serious drug offenders to half the sentence, and so on.

Other members have gone through a review of the literature on this thing. Let just read you a few of these things. I am quoting from *The Ottawa Sun* of October 10, 1991:

But remember we are living in a world where justice reform continues to move, sometimes rightly, it must be said, in the favour of the accused and the convicted. It is an achievement for the Tories to come up with a bill that would increase sentences for violent offenders and give victims a bigger say in how long they stay in jail.

This is the important part. He is referring to the fact that it took this Tory government to make even these few changes in favour of victims. "Mr. Nunziata", and I am quoting so I have every right to use his name, "can call the proposed legislation weak-tinkering by a weak minister, but it was the Liberal years in power which led to the tipping of scales in favour of criminals. While the NDP has given cautious approval to Lewis' bill, judging by the party's general policies, one suspects they would have followed the Liberal route if they had ever managed to gain office".

I will grant you there has been a terrible increase in crime. Last year there were 270,000 violent crimes in Canada, well above the 219,000 average for the 1985 to 1989 period.