

We believe there is a role for punishment in the criminal justice system; we do not disagree that some punishment should be increased where appropriate. But the great lack is the minister's insight into the causes of crime in Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Leggatt:** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to deal in more detail with the question of drug-related crime. Not only is 70 per cent of the serious crime in Canada related to drugs, but 50 per cent of the inmates of federal institutions are there because of drug trafficking and drug trade offences. We spent \$4 million on the LeDain commission which recommended compulsory medical treatment for hard core addicts, but we have never implemented the recommendations. I suppose that is another \$4 million down the drain. Anybody involved in drugs can tell us that the approach we are taking now is a total disaster. Our crime rate continues to increase because of it. In Vancouver, in a period of three years, a coroner found that 1,000 deaths were directly attributable to hard drugs, all of which is related to the criminal process one way or another.

In Japan, under a heroin addict program of compulsory medical treatment, the number of addicts was reduced from 40,000 to 100. Maybe Japan has a different culture and a more homogeneous society but, Mr. Speaker, surely we can look somewhere else for solutions to the major cause of crime in Canada. In Great Britain, with a population of 50 million, there are 3,000 heroin addicts. They have a program to try to decriminalize users. That does not mean they legalize the distribution of hard drugs, but they isolate addicts and treat them. We should do the same in an effort to stop the insidious growth of drugs in schools where the user has no choice but to turn somebody younger on in order to secure the means of supporting his habit, so the thing pyramids through whole urban areas. The government is doing nothing about this.

In British Columbia we are beginning to think the government does not know we exist. We have the major drug problem in Canada.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Leggatt:** I should like to quote the remarks of the Vancouver coroner about this problem when he discovered there had been 1,000 deaths due to drugs. The Vancouver *Province* reports the coroner as saying that serious consideration should be given to a federally-controlled drug maintenance system for addicts in both Canada and the United States; either that or the setting up of a strict, continental enforcement of drug laws. He said that British Columbia is left virtually on its own to deal with 65 per cent of the nation's drug problem, and it is time the federal government took over the fight on a national and international scale to take the profit out of heroin trafficking.

As long as we continue to treat crime in a completely one-sided and simplistic way, all we will do is put offenders behind bars. In many cases that is necessary, and in many cases the public is protected because there is no repetition of the offence. But it is not getting at the root of the problem. I mentioned earlier the problems of the native Indians are not being dealt with except in a token way with the provision of some court workers. There have been some Indian friendship centres as well. The crisis problem

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with the native people, however, is the educational system. We continue to warp the Indian's view of himself in the way we treat the history of Indian people in Canada. Until we decide to give Indian people pride in their culture, we will continue to see the growth of the insidious problem of the white culture imposing itself on the native culture, with the massive social and criminal problems that follow.

I want to say a few words now about the subject of gun control, Mr. Speaker. I have very vigorous disagreements with the hon. member for Calgary North concerning almost everything he had to say about gun control. Indeed, I wonder whether he read the bill. He was talking about the licensing of guns. I read the bill, and there is nothing in it about licensing guns; it is licensing of ownership. That is a proposal that has been made by most gun clubs in Canada, most wildlife federations, and it is the proposal we are now examining.

I oppose the registration of weapons Mr. Speaker. I think it is an unnecessary bureaucracy. The requirement that a person should act responsibly, however, and have a permit to buy a long rifle is not a severe interference with his rights, it seems to me.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. We are a little beyond five o'clock, so pursuant to the order made on Friday, February 27, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions, and public bills.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, we agreed, through the usual negotiations, to discuss motion No. 43.

Before moving it,—

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[*English*]

### CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

#### SUGGESTED AWARD FOR SERVICE IN NATO

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. There has been agreement on all sides that motion No. 43, in the name of the hon. member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan), shall be amended prior to presentation so that it shall read:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government consider the advisability of taking immediate steps to establish a service award for past and present members of the Canadian armed forces serving in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in recognition of their dedication and high standards, keeping in mind that such awards already exist for members of the Canadian armed forces serving in the United Nations peacekeeping duties and that NATO servicemen deserve the same recognition.

● (1700)

**Mr. Paproski:** That has been agreed, Mr. Speaker.