

Criminal Code Amendments

The people of the neighbourhood where this most terrible crime occurred are now organizing neighbourhood patrols in the hope of preventing future tragedies. Some will be walking while others will drive throughout the area on the look out for trouble. They want their streets to be safe for women and children, as do all Members of the House.

Today I will suggest that the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) arrange an immediate meeting with the chiefs of police associations and other police organizations. I believe that we can learn more from the police about how to deal with these brutal crimes of child abduction, rape and murder. I do not know what the answer is, but I do not believe that more legislation will necessarily stop such crimes. I am sure that we can learn much from our police across the country about how to prevent these atrocities from continuing.

I will also suggest to the Solicitor General that he conduct a meeting with the provincial Solicitors General to deal with these heinous crimes that are reaching serious proportions.

Let me give another example of how these fiends work. On the previous evening to this three year old girl being sexually assaulted and murdered, the youth accused of this brutal crime is said to have been causing a disturbance in the halls of the apartment building where this victim lived. Neighbours said that a young girl was manhandled in the halls by the accused. We simply cannot let our children play in apartment blocks, especially high rises.

Another recent case in Toronto involves an eight year old girl who was abducted. She was going down the elevator to meet a friend to go swimming. We have never seen or heard of her since. We hope and pray that Nicole will be found safe and sound. It is just further evidence to show that we cannot let our children go out alone. In the case of the three year old girl who was sexually assaulted and murdered in Winnipeg, the Winnipeg police stated that it is one of the worst crimes they have ever seen. It has absolutely stunned the Winnipeg police force. They are to be congratulated for their excellent police work because they found the culprit within nine hours.

In Winnipeg, a steady stream of people dropped by the apartment building today before the funeral of the three year old girl. To date, over \$2,000 has been collected, including the donation of a \$400 headstone from a Transcona firm. People have been driving from as far as Kenora and Portage La Prairie to express their condolences.

I would like the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) to make a commitment that he will take positive action in dealing with safety on the streets, especially as it concerns children. All of us have children or grandchildren and are deeply concerned because any one of them could be the next victim.

This crime was particularly tragic because the father of this three year old was in Alberta and heard of the murder over the radio. One can only imagine his shock.

I want to emphasize that these crimes are a national issue and something which we can no longer condone. We must take action at the federal level. We must introduce legislation, whether it is provincial or federal legislation, that will help the

police in any way. I hope my friend and colleague, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Solicitor General, the Hon. Member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers), will relay my plea and concerns to the Solicitor General. I am sure that Members want positive action to stop these heinous crimes and make the streets safe once again for women, children and all Canadians.

• (1140)

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I would like the Hon. Member to say whether he believes that keeping an inmate convicted of a violent crime in prison for the entirety of his term, with no chance of release for good behaviour or for mandatory supervision because a judgment is made that the prisoner might commit an offence again, will mean that, at the end of his or her term, he will be more or less likely to commit further crimes than a prisoner who has passed through a period of parole or mandatory supervision, thus having had a chance to integrate with society?

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to expand on the powers of the Parole Board. Decisions will have to be made in discussions with prison officials as to who should be transferred or released. That decision is not for a Member of Parliament to make. We will be picking people with experience and good judgment. I suggest that the Solicitor General meet with the different police organizations for discussion because the police are more familiar with criminals than we are. The police can certainly advise us whether somebody should be released or transferred. They know more about these things than anybody else.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, prisoners whose eligibility for mandatory supervision is put into question by the proposals in Bill C-67 will have served substantial lengths of time, perhaps 5, 10 or 15 years. People change over time. The judgment as to whether a prisoner can benefit from mandatory supervision or should be denied it would presumably be based on a prisoner's behaviour while a prisoner.

A prisoner is not accepted for mandatory supervision if that prisoner has not exhibited good behaviour. The Member knows that.

The Bill presupposes that it is possible to judge whether or not a prisoner who has demonstrated good behaviour is likely or not to commit a violent crime if permitted to exit prison on mandatory supervision. My colleague, the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson), has indicated quite strongly that, based on his knowledge of the corrections field, there is no scientific or established means by which that kind of prediction can take place.

The Hon. Member opposite says he believes that that is the case because he is supporting the Bill. What is the evidence? On what basis does the Hon. Member believe the prediction about the propensity to commit violent crime again based on good behaviour?