

Organized Crime

believe most Canadians are not aware of what is happening in this whole area. I think that is a dangerous situation which calls for attention.

• (1740)

Let me refer to an article in the *Toronto Star* issue of March 3, 1984. It dealt with organized crime in this country and made three points that I believe are good arguments for the establishment of a royal commission in order to become more knowledgeable about organized crime and how to deal with it.

First, the article states that profits from organized crime in Canada are estimated to be \$10 billion. Most of it is earned from drug smuggling, gambling and prostitution. Surely a statement such as that in a major daily newspaper calls for investigation. We require more than newspaper reports to evaluate what needs to be done.

Second, the article states that anyone in Metropolitan Toronto having clothes dry-cleaned, who is shopping on Bloor Street or buying a pizza could be contributing to the underworld coffers. Customers may not realize it, but some of the businesses they patronize have mob connections.

If this article is accurate, as interviews with police who investigate these matters would indicate, ordinary Canadians who buy goods and services may be supporting organized crime. Surely there should be a formal investigation because I am sure every Canadian does not want to be used by organized crime to make its profits.

Finally, the article states: "The number of killings, robberies and scams linked to organized crime in the last decade is staggering".

Not only must we recognize that organized crime is a large industry in this country which is corrupting our society, and that we can unknowingly be used by this industry for its profits, it involves murder not only of those connected to organized crime but also of innocent victims. This article documents some of those innocent victims as well.

It is time for us to remove our rose-coloured glasses and take seriously some of the press reports that indicate the size of the criminal sector in Canada.

I am sure that every Canadian would support the objective of investigating organized crime in order to do away with it or at least control it. The Government should not only act on what is on the front page of *The Globe and Mail* each day or respond to what is dealt with by *The Journal* each night, it should respond to other serious problems that arise and need investigation and attention.

The motion of the Hon. Member for Trinity (Miss Nicholson) states that the Government should consider the advisability of appointing a royal commission to investigate organized crime in Canada. I think it is time that we had a thorough investigation of organized crime. I am confident every

Canadian would want us to do everything within our powers in order to reduce and eliminate organized crime in this country.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The question is on the amendment standing in the name of the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the amendment?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those in favour of the amendment please say ye.

Some Hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): All those opposed please say nay.

Some Hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): In my opinion, the nays have it.

And more than five Members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Call in the Members.

• (1810)

And the division bells having rung:

Mr. Gauthier: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. In keeping with our practice this session when dealing with recorded divisions in relation to Private Members' Business, and after having discussed this matter with my colleagues in the other Parties, I think you will find that there is unanimous consent to proceed with the taking of the vote by rows.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is the House in agreement with the division being taken by rows?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Order. At this point I should like to remind Hon. Members that the voting will begin with those Members in favour of the motion in the rows to my right, and I ask them to rise row by row. Those Members in the rows to my left will then rise. Later, I will ask those Members who are opposed to the motion in the rows to my right to rise. Finally, those Members who are opposed to the motion will rise in the rows to my left.

The House divided on the amendment (Mr. Kaplan), which was negatived on the following division: