

*Government Orders*

as some of our other crime, we are not going to do anything about minimizing its presence.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** Yes. I am not suggesting for a moment that white collar crime is not important and does not hurt people in a material way. I am suggesting that there are other ways of punishing many of those who have offended as white collar criminals other than putting them in our prison system. That is what I have said.

Repayment is one way of doing it, if it takes a lifetime. My God, what a sentence to repay the money stolen by fraud or by cooking the books.

I also want to make it very clear that I am not including organized white collar crime in that category.

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, having been a prosecutor and a defence counsel, I am hard put to find out where exactly the member is coming from. It seems to me that what he is really saying is he likes the status quo just the way it is in the criminal justice system, in which case I would ask him if he has ever spoken to a victim or to the family of someone who has been raped or murdered. What planet is he living on when he gives a speech like that?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Very briefly, the hon. member for Brant.

**Mr. Blackburn (Brant):** Mr. Speaker, I am very glad I only have a brief time. A question like that really does not warrant any kind of intelligent answer.

I am just as concerned about the hapless victims of violent crime as any other reasonable human being is. The question, as phrased by that member, unfortunately is all too common from that seat and is not worthy of a responsible answer.

**Mr. Bob Horner (Mississauga West):** Mr. Speaker, I understand I am allowed 20 minutes. I only have 15 minutes before Question Period resumes. I hope you will allow me time later to finish. I will do my best to tell the reasons why I am supporting this bill fully, the corrections and conditional release bill.

The role of government is a lot of things, such as providing a framework for economic prosperity, providing infrastructure to support all citizens in their efforts to develop skills in order to play an active role in society, and providing social programs to provide the basic needs

for Canadians. It must also provide a system of fair laws that are enforced by the courts and police and provide for the safety and well-being of our people. It is this issue of safety of security of Canadians that we are addressing today.

For the past seven years, since I was elected in 1984, I have served on the Standing Committee of Justice and the Solicitor General. For the past two and one-half years I have chaired that committee.

It is a great honour for me to chair that committee, because it is the first time in the history of Parliament that committee has ever been chaired by someone other than a lawyer. I am not a lawyer. I will admit that lack of legal knowledge is somewhat of a hindrance in that capacity.

However, I do have great support from the legal system such as the very fine clerk who is a lawyer and some people from the Library of Parliament who are lawyers and who assist me and make it very easy for me to operate this committee. I am very hopeful that this bill will be referred to our committee because I feel we have an area of expertise developed through which we can give a fair hearing to this bill.

I listened with great interest to the Solicitor General, the hon. member for York South—Weston and the hon. member for Brant giving their various positions. Some of them surprised me.

I joined the justice committee the same day as the hon. member for York South—Weston. He talked at great length about the *Taking Responsibility* report which was a unanimous report of that committee. At no time did that report say we should get rid of parole or mandatory supervision. As a matter of fact, it stated we should keep parole and mandatory supervision.

Now he says that he believes we should get rid of them. I do not believe it will serve any purpose. During crime prevention week this government is moving to bring in bills that I have been advocating since the day I came here.

People will agree that the most interesting work that MPs carry out is the work of standing committees. I also have found it rewarding, but sometimes frustrating. Frustration comes when, after months of research and hearings, a document is produced and tabled in Parliament and it receives limited acceptance from the