

*Measures Against Crime*

legislation with regard to young offenders may be effective.

We need legislation and programs on housing, on full employment, on energy, and on inflation, because it is in these areas that the government has been a tragic failure. It is the government which is to blame for the devastating stress and strain on the individual, on family life, and on community life. What we need is priority with regard to spending.

When I hear of the millions of dollars that have been spent on EXPO and the millions of dollars which we anticipate spending on the acquisition of new aircraft it makes me realize that our priorities are probably at fault. The indictment does not lie on the shoulders of the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) or the Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand), but the indictment with regard to the problems of violence and fear lies on all of us. As Canadians we have failed miserably in bringing forth social programs to help solve these problems.

May I direct the attention of members to the problems of violence today, because the violence which we are experiencing in our society is putting fear into the minds of the people, a fear which must be combatted. I recall the statement of the late President Roosevelt who said that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself. We have this problem of fear with regard to violence.

I should like to direct the attention of the Minister of Justice to the evidence given by Professor Greenland before the Standing Committee on National Health and Welfare when he set forth some of the research that he has done on violence. Professor Greenland is a professor in social work at McMaster University. He specialized for the past seven years in research concerning violence. He spoke about some of the results of his study and he said that he had studied five different groups—one a group of 100 persons who have committed violent crimes against persons but have been found not guilty by reason of insanity, plus another group detained in Ontario mental hospitals who were found unfit to stand trial. These were serious offences that were committed by these people, offences such as murder, manslaughter and other serious crimes, often involving children.

The second group which he studied was composed of 100 persons who are inmates of penitentiaries and were found guilty of the same offences, namely, murder, manslaughter, and crimes involving children.

The third group was composed of 96 people currently incarcerated as dangerous sexual offenders.

The fourth group were people involved in murder followed by suicide. He pointed out that in Ontario in the last five years 65 individuals murdered, usually their children, then their spouses, and then destroyed themselves. He made a particular study with regard to that.

The final area he studied was the problem of child abuse.

● (2150)

There were four conclusions he reached about the problem of violence which were sent to the committee. The first conclusion was that there is a tremendous overlap in all these groups. In other words, the same people and the same members of families appear in each of the five studies, and

[Mr. Gilbert.]

even though violence takes on many manifestations and appears in many different forms, in many cases it involves the same individuals and the same families. That was one striking point.

The second striking point was that almost all the individuals studied had a common experience of severe deprivation in childhood. They were victims of inadequate child welfare and health services which failed to provide them with a basic system of care and protection. He pointed out that this severe deprivation in childhood is a cycle of deprivation which is passed on from one generation to another, with a multiplying effect with regard to violence and abuse within our society.

His third observation was that between one third and one half of violent criminal cases involve alcohol and drug abuse. His fourth was that in one half of all cases involved there was an adequate warning through help-seeking behaviour. In other words, people with mental conditions or mothers who were operating under great stress attempted to acquire help before an offence was committed; there was a failure in providing the proper health and mental care, and the result was that these people committed serious offences.

He underlined the programs which are necessary to deal with the environmental stresses of poor housing, poverty, and unemployment, and the necessity of having research to identify problems and to set forth programs to meet the problem of violence today.

If there is one thing the Minister of Justice should do it is to pay heed to the findings of Professor Greenland and other men within society who have made particular studies with regard to violence, because violence is the base and the rock bottom of many of our problems today. It is the rock bottom with regard to the fears people have, and the rock bottom with regard to the resultant actions.

When I consider the matter of gun control, which is dealt with in this bill, I notice that the main purpose of the gun control legislation is to control the availability of guns, to promote increased public responsibility in relation to firearms, and to increase the penalties for the use of guns during the commission of offences.

Right here and now I should like to give credit to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Anderson) who set forth tonight in detail his views with regard to gun control in Canada. He is to be credited for this because it was a detailed explanation.

One of the problems which besets most Canadians is the availability of guns. It is really shocking how easy it is to obtain a firearm. When we consider the figures involved we realize that guns claim one half of our murdered victims, that murders committed with the use of firearms in 1970 amounted to 178, whereas in 1974 they amounted to 272, that one third of Canada's 2,500 suicide victims clearly died as a result of the use of firearms, and that over 100 accidental deaths were caused by the use of firearms. Is it any wonder that we are reaping a whirlwind of violence when we have the availability of guns which exists today?

I am sure that I and most of the hon. members in my party welcome the licensing of persons and limitations on the use of guns by young people. I think the licensing provisions for five year periods are a step in the right