

I intend to raise this issue with the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) and the Canadian Transport Commission, to ensure the immediate installation of a traffic barrier for this crossing. Although we recognize that the ultimate solution lies in the construction of a grade separation, which I fully support, the implementation of traffic barriers would prohibit similar fatalities from occurring in the future.

Considering that across Canada there were 525 related accidents in 1986, I strongly believe safety procedures should be given top priority by the Canadian Transport Commission.

● (1405)

On a more personal note, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my deepest sympathy to the Carriere family.

* * *

[Translation]

HOUSING

THE YOUNG HOMELESS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Gilles Grondin (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, a survey on homeless youths in Montreal done between January and June 1985 gives us a clear picture of the problems faced by these young people aged 18 to 30. Half of them have lived in foster homes or in institutions. Generally speaking, 80.3 per cent of these homeless youths have broken all ties with their family, and they have to cope with two major problems: alcoholism and/or drug abuse, and mental illness.

As a matter of fact, 23 per cent of cases studied have already undergone psychiatric treatment. Suicide attempts are common. Under such conditions, these young people find it hard to hang on to steady jobs.

The Governor of the State of Massachusetts stated recently: "Not only do homeless youths fall victim to violence and family problems, alcohol and drug abuse, and mental illness, but they also suffer from an economy which fails to provide economic benefits for everybody."

What is the Conservative Government waiting for before helping homeless youths during International Year of the Homeless?

* * *

[English]

NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD

REPORT ON EARLY PAROLE OF CONVICTED MURDERERS—TIMING OF RELEASE

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Mr. Speaker, further to a story in yesterday's *Ottawa Citizen*, it has become apparent that a study from the National Parole Board shows that early-

S. O. 21

leave prisoners have been responsible for 130 murders in Canada in the past 12 years. The most disturbing aspect of the report is the fact that it had been completed since early this year but had not been released to Members of Parliament, nor to the public, at a time when a national debate on the whole issue of capital punishment was before this House of Commons.

Why were we as parliamentarians denied facts so important to the recent debate? I believe that Members of Parliament should have been aware of facts which detail the reality that murderers are being released to do it again.

This is in addition to a Corrections Canada study which shows an average of one murder every 50 days in prison populations of 1,000 men or less. Some murderers do not wait for parole. They repeat this heinous crime right inside the various institutions which are supposed to be reforming them.

Why did the Government release statistics showing a drop in the Canadian murder rate and fail to give equal exposure to the high rate of repeat murderers?

* * *

SOCIAL AFFAIRS

TRAGEDY OF THE HOMELESS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on January 22, 1987, the Canadian Council on Social Development's survey of social agencies indicated 757 homeless people in Manitoba, 728 of whom were found in Winnipeg.

There are many tragedies in the phenomena of the homeless. I want to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, three of them. First, the homeless are becoming younger and younger. A survey of the clientele of the Main Street Project Hostel in Winnipeg indicated that half the people using the hostel were between 18 and 33 years of age. Second, 57 per cent of those who sought refuge at the hostel are native Canadians. The third tragedy concerns women. The average age of homeless women is less than 35 years of age.

What does this say about Canada? Let us take the opportunity that the International Year for the Shelter of the Homeless provides in order to take a good look at our social policies, to take a good look at ourselves as a nation, and to adjust our policies to the needs of those Canadians who are in dire need of our help.