

*Government Orders*

guaranteed means of funding crime prevention through this mechanism. I think it would be supported by the public. An editorial in *The Ottawa Citizen* said the government missed a good investment.

The government did make an amendment to the bill today which originally said that the moneys were supposed to go to the debt reduction fund. Now it has left it open and by regulation it can still go to crime prevention.

As I said to the hon. member for Calgary a few hours ago quoting Mick Jagger: "You can't always get what you want but you will find sometimes you might get what you need". What we need is money for crime prevention. What we have is a clause that allows it to happen. I give the parliamentary secretary his due here. He said today that he would do his best to see that those moneys were allocated for crime prevention and so did the Minister of Justice. That is on the record here of the House of Commons. He can rest assured that we will keep reminding him of that particular record. Let us not lose a golden opportunity. Let us get some funds to crime prevention.

• (1610)

Before I sit down I want to add two more points. The first point is that in terms of crime prevention and moneys, the government should not forget that jobs and employment are related to violence and crime. We are seeing the beginning of youth violence in this country and it is scary whether they are breaking into the legislature in B.C. on an environmental process or whether it is the Nazi youth here in Ottawa last week against another group of youth who were protesting against the Nazis. It is scary and it is beginning.

There is overwhelming evidence to show that there is a strong connection between employment and crime, particularly violent crime. An extensive 1990 study of data from the preceding 40 years prepared by the British home office of the United Kingdom dramatically identified: "the profound importance of economic factors in the determination of crime. A comparison of personal consumption per capita, with both property and personal crimes in Britain and other countries, revealed that the

significance of these factors goes beyond national borders". It goes to Canada as well.

When the study examined unemployment rates it found: "Growth in offences of violence against the person was also found to be associated with growth in unemployment during the previous year—the relation was strong". These are real studies. I have them and I will show them to the House.

There is also evidence to show that Canadians understand this connection and view crime prevention as a broadly applied policy. While politicians in general continue to subscribe to the myth of neo-Conservative, tough on crime rhetoric, recent survey data suggests that Canadians do not see an increasingly punitive justice system alone as an effective defence against crime.

A survey done for the Canadian Sentencing Commission found that the most popular solution to crime was to reduce the level of unemployment. In a poll regarding the effective ways to control crime, 41 per cent of Canadians said to reduce the level of unemployment; 27 per cent said to make sentences harsher; 13 per cent said to increase the use of non-imprisonment sentencing such as restitution to community service officers; 4 per cent said to increase the number of police officers and 10 per cent said to increase the number of social programs.

The government, in its so-called law and order agenda which is mainly full of rhetoric, is basically phoney and on the wrong track. The right track is to be tough on violent crime and criminals but at the same time balance this with a crime prevention program. We must get at people, particularly young people, before they become criminals.

Did you see the news last night and the story from Cape Breton about the 20-year old kid who murdered the people in the McDonald's? We wonder how we could have reached that obviously disturbed person earlier and perhaps helped him or the family or taken that person right out of society if that was the necessary thing to do. That is the real challenge for crime prevention in the future. That is what I call getting tough on crime. That is what I call being effective on crime. We owe it to the kids.