

Oral Questions

putting in place a program to prevent crime in the first place.

The minister is aware there was a meeting last week of the provincial attorneys general in Quebec City. I understand they recommended not only a review of the Young Offenders Act but a process that would bring communities together for a discussion of the whole juvenile justice system.

Did the minister receive recommendations from the meeting of the attorneys general? If so, what was his response to them?

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Madam Speaker, at this meeting last Friday I mentioned to my provincial counterparts that we were contemplating different amendments to improve the Young Offenders Act.

Obviously with the time we have before us it would be very difficult to table legislation. However they agree. I suggested that maybe we could table a proposal, a white paper or something similar. I am contemplating this possibility to ensure that Canadians will be capable of making their point and being part of the consultation process. I will make a final decision in a very short time.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, the minister will know that I rose in the House a month ago and put before him a resolution from the village of Belcarra in my riding of Port Moody—Coquitlam. They called for a public review of the youth justice system, not just a bill but a public review of the youth justice system.

At that time 400 municipalities in Canada had agreed to it. There are 12 more in British Columbia, bringing the total to about 136. There are another 400. Now there are 536 municipalities and the provincial people.

I call upon the minister on behalf of our party to show some leadership on the national level and hold a national, non-partisan inquiry into the youth justice system. Why not announce that now before the end of this Parliament?

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):

Madam Speaker, my hon. colleague knows that at this very moment in committee I think we have eight justice bills being looked at by parliamentarians here and in the other place.

The proceeds from crime bill will be here in a couple of days. We have the stalking legislation on which some of the member's colleagues are working on a daily basis. We also have the child pornography legislation. We have taken a lot of major steps in the protection of society.

I understand what my colleague is saying about the Young Offenders Act. I think we amended the Young Offenders Act last year. I will make public in a few days what are the intentions of the government in this area. I share with my colleague that this is an ongoing concern in the population and we will address it.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for the Environment.

Yesterday environmental groups gave the Minister of the Environment failing grades for breaking the environmental promises made at the earth summit just one year ago. It is a miserable record: no sign of the law to guarantee the safety of Canadian drinking water, no legislation to prohibit the wholesale export of Canadian water, no national plan to freeze greenhouse gas emissions, no action to protect old growth forests and constant cuts to green plan funds.

When will the minister get back to his desk and campaign for his first responsibility, the environment?

Hon. Mary Collins (Minister of Western Economic Diversification and Minister of State (Environment) and Minister Responsible for the Status of Women): Madam Speaker, I am really glad my hon. colleague raised that question.

The report the Sierra Club provided was interesting. I actually felt that it really had not done its homework. I do not think it attended the meeting on Monday when our Canadian ambassador for environment and sustainable development, Mr. Campeau, brought out the report card on what we have done on the UNCED follow-up.