

Narcotics Control Act and on this basis encounter large-scale crime. They also maintain a criminal intelligence network in the country, and on this basis gain an awareness of criminal activities everywhere. They co-operate on request with local authorities and are the channel of communication with law enforcement agencies in other countries, such as the F.B.I. or Interpol.

I believe there is no police force in the country which is better informed than the R.C.M.P. on the dimensions of the criminal problem. Nevertheless it should not be forgotten in this house that under our constitutional arrangements the R.C.M.P. have no direct involvement with many of the activities which criminals are pursuing.

In the two largest provinces, of course, the R.C.M.P. do not function as provincial police forces, and so their constitutional responsibility is still further limited.

The nature of police work is such that it involves two main problems. First, the criminal must be detected and, second, the evidence must be assembled for a conviction. With the growth in sophisticated crime it becomes harder to collect the evidence necessary to convict. Guilt by association is something which our criminal law has always frowned upon. It is well known that the higher-ranked criminals protect their anonymity and that strong security measures are enforced within the criminal hierarchy. The leaders apparently insulate themselves from their henchmen, and the arrest of a henchman usually does not produce the evidence to sustain a conviction of someone higher up the line.

Breaking through this screen of insulation to get at the real leaders is not simple and requires primarily more intensive investigation and the utmost co-ordination and sharing of police information among the various forces.

Some indication of the threat posed by organized crime may be gleaned from the fact that during the past three years the R.C.M.P. have made seizures of heroin which can be valued at a street price to the addict of about \$240,000,000. The R.C.M.P. have reason to believe that in Canada the distribution of so-called "hard" narcotics, by which I mean primarily heroin, is reasonably under control. In Toronto and Montreal particularly, the efforts of the police have been rewarded by considerable success while in Vancouver they have not been quite as successful.

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#### *Supply—Solicitor General*

Traffic in "soft" narcotics, primarily marijuana, is not so well contained. I should like to put on the record some factors relating to the number of narcotic arrests. For trafficking in or possession of heroin 406 arrests were made in 1964, 395 in 1965, and 461 in 1966. For trafficking in or possession of marijuana 78 arrests were made in 1964, 162 in 1965, and 398 in 1966. Our biggest problem with respect to organized crime relates to narcotics. There are other areas in which criminal activities are also organized, though generally on a local scale.

Counterfeiting is an offence against the Criminal Code but in practice the investigation of counterfeiters is carried out in large measure by the R.C.M.P. The value of counterfeit notes passed to the public in recent years has been: in 1964, 8,148 notes having a value of about \$157,000; in 1965, 15,637 notes having a value of about \$303,000; in 1966, 14,618 notes were passed to the public having a value of about \$250,000.

On the other side of the ledger I should like to point out that the value of the counterfeit notes seized before their manufacturers had a chance to pass them off to the public has been: in 1964, 17,291 notes having a value of \$228,400; in 1965, 26,291 notes having a value of \$400,000; and in 1966, 18,361 notes having a value of \$580,000.

If we are to combat crime successfully we must not only increase the number of trained policemen but we must increase the efficiency of the members of the force. This efficiency can be improved by increased specialization and improved professional training of the police, by giving the police the resources of technology and by greater application of some of the methods used in business, particularly in the area of information handling and communications.

● (5:50 p.m.)

In few other occupations is rapid access to records so crucial to success. Canadian law enforcement agencies are segmented into 710 municipal, township, provincial and federal organizations that nevertheless are highly interdependent for information and assistance.

All recommendations for action decided upon at the dominion-provincial conference of attorneys general have already been implemented or are well along the way toward implementation. For example, the strength of the various national crime intelligence units attached to the R.C.M.P. has been increased. A national wire photo service is now in operation and the R.C.M.P. telecommunications