

with drugs. This is one of the major problems facing the country today. Yet, as he says, we have nothing. I cannot imagine why this is being left out because it is one of the most serious problems we, as a parliament, have to grapple with if our children and their children are going to be able to live without the danger inherent in the drug trade as it exists today and without the major crime being created by drugs. We cannot walk away blindfolded as if it does not exist, any more than we can walk away from the two systems of justice that appear to be in existence at this moment in time in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Coates: There is a lot of concern about certain aspects of this legislation. I want one fact to be clear. The hon. member for Calgary North never left the impression with me or any other member of this party that he was opposed to gun control, an impression which at least one member tried to give. There is no way that this party is against gun control. What we are in favour of are realistic controls, if they are possible to perceive, that will give to those who use guns the right to continue their sport without at the same time building up a bureaucracy that takes away the kind of freedom that the government over and over again has taken away from Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Coates: An article in the *Truro Daily News* points out that Canada has no gun control at the present time except for that in the Criminal Code and which the government has not done very much about until now. It states that Japan has the tightest gun control of any country in the world, yet there is in Japan as much crime and unlawful and disorderly conduct as in Canada. Therefore let us not feel that this is a panacea for curing the kind of crime we face today.

The minister suggests that crime in Canada is under control. Well, Mr. Speaker, if crime is under control here, everybody is in trouble! Crime is growing at an unprecedented rate in this country and much of the blame lies at the feet of the government for ignoring the problems of crime for so long—indeed, up to the day on which it brought in this legislation.

● (2140)

The Solicitor General (Mr. Allmand) has done no one a favour by running around with his statement, associated with capital punishment, to the effect that if we do not play his game in the way he would like us to, he will pick up his toys and go and play by himself. Mr. Speaker, for the sake of law and order in this country the best thing which could happen would be for the Solicitor General to pick up his toys and go and play by himself somewhere else. What he has done to the morale in the penitentiary service is—

Mr. Alexander: Criminal?

Mr. Coates: The hon. member for Hamilton West says it is criminal. It is almost criminal. One needs only to talk to any employee of the penitentiary services, and I have a great many of them in my constituency. What bothers me is the attitude of those employees today compared to what

Measures Against Crime

it was when Davie Fulton was Minister of Justice. It bothers me to go into those penitentiaries and see what is happening there today as compared to the time Davie Fulton was Minister of Justice.

Today there is absolutely no discipline in our criminal institutions. The reason most people find themselves in those institutions is because they cannot face the discipline of society. But they go into those institutions today and find there is no more discipline there than there is out in the streets. As a result, barely are they out once more on the streets than they are back in the penitentiary again. There is a complete failure when it comes to rehabilitation in our penal system and this is mainly because we have ignored the fact that discipline is needed in order to convince inmates of our institutions that they do not want to go back there.

Since the hon. member for Calgary North and my new leader are both from Alberta I want to point out that one of the most realistic pilot projects in penology exists in the province of Alberta at the present time. They have said to people who transgress, to those who have done material damage to their fellow citizens, "You are not going to the penitentiary to lie around; you are going to work and compensate those to whom you have done damage." I cannot think of a better form of rehabilitation than to put some of these guys to work and make them pay the bills they have run up. If they have to make amends in that way they will not want to make a second trip nearly as fast as they do today when things are almost as good inside the penitentiaries as they are outside. Indeed the food is probably better. The Solicitor General was even going to pay them unemployment insurance. I suppose the government might still pay them all unemployment insurance; almost everyone else in the country is getting it as a result of the economic policies, or lack of them, for which the government is responsible.

It is imperative that we get back to the realism Davie Fulton showed when he was Minister of Justice trying to build up a system which would make it unlikely that many of those who entered the institutions would wish to risk returning to them. We have not been getting such a prospect since the present administration took office.

Davie Fulton probably built more new penal institutions than any Minister of Justice in the history of this nation. One of the concepts which he introduced, the one which impressed me most, was that of minimum security institutions, which were really nothing more than what one might call work camps. There were no bars, no walls, no guns worn by the guards or correctional officers, whatever they were called. One of the first of these institutions was constructed at Springhill in my constituency shortly after the disaster there. It was one of the finest contributions to rehabilitation which existed. But the present government did away with all those institutions. They were not part of its program. In fact they were the least costly way of housing prisoners.

The decision to do away with them was an unfortunate one; it happened because there were a lot of negative thinkers sitting around on the treasury benches. They thought it would be a good thing to save a few dollars by shutting down those institutions. Mr. Speaker, from the