

Mr. Benjamin: You voted for those things.

Mr. Skoreyko: Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister may have tried to fool some English-speaking Canadians of this country, particularly westerners, by what he said in Quebec, but he will not succeed because the Liberal Party knows that his usefulness to that party has come to an end and in the next election the Liberals will enter the election campaign with a new leader.

Worst of all, Mr. Speaker, is what has happened in recent times in this House. The government has attempted to cast a shadow over the judiciary. This is unforgivable. We had the OFY and the CYC. We saw the corruption of the young. We saw them move away from religion and to an interest in sex, alcohol and drugs. Finally we have the registration of firearms on the pretext of elimination of crime in our society, with a further view to their confiscation which would leave our society defenceless. This, to me, smacks of a communist doctrine.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Skoreyko: Mr. Speaker, for the vociferous junior members of the caucus opposite let me say that the prospect of an authoritarian government in this country is not an impossibility. The Liberals have effectively controlled one out of the ten provinces for 50 years. Through that power base the judiciary is now regulated; publicity, television and the media are regulated. Transport is regulated, as are magazines. Wage and price controls are in place. In other words, with the passage of this bill the machinery for a demagogue, to be turned into a benevolent dictator, is in place.

The gun clubs of this country are concerned about this legislation. They have had competent solicitors analyze the bill. The message contained in this bill has been conveyed to them. The gun clubs have said that they will monitor the vote on this legislation, and will attempt to defeat at the next election any member of parliament who supports this measure. You know, as I know, Mr. Speaker, that they cannot achieve that end, but God bless them for having the guts to try.

● (2140)

As a Senator said not too long ago, let us start treating criminal as criminals—let us start by replacing bleeding heart cabinet ministers with ones who have enough courage to administer the law of the land.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Skoreyko: Let us get away from the attitude that a criminal is an object of sympathy because he committed a crime and could be dealt with harshly. This attitude encourages crime, does nothing to curtail it. Let us not impose upon hundreds of thousands of law abiding Canadians a law which is punitive, unnecessary, and one that will create a bureaucracy that is uncontrolled, unbridled, and unforgiving in the administration of a law which requires citizens to register guns which play no part in the commitment of a crime but which denies the right of citizens to do something they have the right to do, namely, to own a firearm.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Measures Against Crime

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, after listening to the wide variety of speeches I must conclude that it is a very fortunate thing that we do not carry guns into the House of Commons, otherwise we would have 264 by-elections within a very short time! I imagine that the strength of a democracy lies in the diversity of opinion on many subjects. We have certainly heard a real diversity of opinion with regard to gun control and the other aspects of the bill before us.

The law and order legislation contained in Bill C-83 euphemistically called peace and security is the government's response to increasing crime and rampant violence in Canada and to the serious fears with regard to personal security in the minds of most Canadians today. The five areas dealt with in the bill, namely, gun control, dangerous offenders, parole, electronic surveillance, and special crime commissions are but a tip of the iceberg approach to achieve a society free of fear, safe and secure. The legislation is a reaction to problems rather than an action. It is a response rather than an approach to problems.

What is needed is action in three areas: the area of prevention, the area of detection, and the area of treatment, so that when persons are apprehended and convicted there should be treatment programs based on reformation and rehabilitation in order that when prisoners are released they can take their rightful place in the community.

Now I should like to speak briefly on the question of prevention. Let me say that the bill goes only a short distance with regard to prevention. We do not have legislation here with regard to drugs. I thought that my colleague, the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt), and the lead-off spokesman for the Conservative party underlined very well the necessity for legislation dealing with hard drugs and the control of people who use them, because we have a very high rate of violent crimes among drug offenders. It is not only legislation that is needed, we also need programs.

Similarly, we do not have legislation and programs with regard to native people. We have heard comments from several hon. members, which is to their credit, emphasizing the need for programs with regard to the native people in Canada. They commented on the need for a change in attitude among them. It is not only necessary to have court workers and community centres. There is also a need for programs to give the native people a positive attitude and a direction within the community.

We also need legislation and programs to control the problem of child abuse, a problem of which we are increasingly more aware in Canada. When I hear of the federal and provincial governments cutting back on health and medical costs, this indicates to me a lack of appreciation of the growing problem of child abuse and of the necessity of having programs to control this problem and to assist in solving it.

I recall the time when, back in 1967, a bill was brought before us with regard to young offenders. This problem has been studied but there is no legislation, and there are no programs to deal with the problems of young offenders. One of the serious criticisms against the last bill on young offenders was directed at the lack of diagnostic and treatment centres. These are vitally important in order that any