

**Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, the member for Dartmouth has really captured the spirit of what is going on here. There is no question that in the dying days of a dying government this type of legislation will be put on the record with no hope that it will ever be adopted.

I think we are fooling the government because we have been working night and day in order to see some of this legislation passed and see some progress. In this particular bill on the proceeds of crime I think we are all supportive of what is going on.

I can tell the member for Dartmouth who really captured the spirit of it, I know of what he speaks. I was the mayor of Moncton a few years ago and I have a real appreciation of what it is like to run a municipal police force. I appreciate the costs associated with it and the number of men and women needed on the force to just try to stem the tide of crime. As the member from Dartmouth has so eloquently said, throw in a government-made recession and the cost escalates that much more.

We were successful in Moncton in negotiating with the provincial government on something completely different. We had to look after traffic violations, speeders and those types of people and all the fines went to the province. We were able to negotiate with the province to get some of the money from fines returned to the municipality. It could be reinvested in our police forces so they could arrest more speeders and use it for other types of crime prevention.

• (1605)

I think that is what we have to be concerned about with this legislation. There is no question that the legislation has indicated that the minister can and does have the power to distribute the proceeds of crime to other levels of government.

The concern I have as I read the definitions and look at what is going on is that this legislation just provides the minister with authority. It does not make distribution mandatory. It makes it questionable as to how this money is going to be divided and whether it will actually get down to the police force that is doing the work. I think that is the critical thing.

If it just ends up in the general revenue of the provincial or municipal government coffers and is not

### *Government Orders*

earmarked for crime prevention, investigation and all the things that have to be done then I do not think we are really serving the citizens properly.

I am sure each and every one of us has seen some of the alarming statistics concerning the amount of money that is now earned by the drug barons of the world and the sophistication and type of equipment that is now being used by illicit drug traders. If we are not going to match that expenditure with similar expenditures within our forces then we are going to face some very serious problems.

They are simply going to dominate the situation by sheer weight of wealth and they certainly have done that in the past. At the same time we in government and particularly at the federal government level have been passing restraint on and on down the line until it gets to the municipality that is not capable of providing or having the resources to provide the proper equipment for the police force. Yet we demand that those forces arrest and control the situation.

We on this side are supportive of this legislation. We are anxious to see it better defined so we know exactly where the dollars are going. We want to see it earmarked for use primarily against the drug traffic as well as on the front lines. The troops on the front lines need the resources to fight crime. That is why we are supportive of this legislation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Before I recognize the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam it is my duty pursuant to Standing Order 38 to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for St. Boniface—Student aid; the hon. member for Parkdale—High Park—Crime prevention; the hon. member for Okanagan—Shuswap—Trade; the hon. member for Prince George—Bulkley Valley—Health care.

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, the justice committee report, *Crime Prevention in Canada*, says clearly in recommendation No. 3 that the share of the moneys forfeited as proceeds of crime be allocated to crime prevention activities.

This is the bill the government is presenting. It is about forfeiture of moneys and property the police have been able to get. It seems to me the government had a golden opportunity to take the second step toward a national program of crime prevention and that was to have a