

These are the sorts of things that we should be doing to help people. We cannot do it in a legislative framework without money and without commitment. The old cliché is put your money where your mouth is. You go out and you help people and you do not just give them the image that you are helping them without any of the particular support systems that they all need.

I am sure that this is not the first speech in the House asking the government to be more active in the area of penal reform. There are many organizations that have put forward the case more eloquently than I possibly could have.

Members of Parliament have to realize that the price we pay for the collapse of the social network is more than we could have imagined. We look at the fear that is not only involved with traditional poor communities in which there has always been a fear on the streets, but into families. Now we are into family violence.

For violence against women, which is an emerging issue, for violence against gays, for people gathering late at night and being attacked randomly by gangs, these issues have to be addressed honestly and openly and the different perspectives we bring to bear in the debate must be shared in such a fashion that at least there is a coalition that is willing to deal with it.

I hope that by sharing my small example in the House today of the Inner City Safety Council, people will come to realize that there are ways to be optimistic and there are people willing to deal with these issues both from a traditional recognition of the need that people be punished for behaviour contrary to the Criminal Code, and also very much so that people wish to have their communities maintained and supported.

I thank you for the opportunity of joining in this debate and wish the government would withdraw this legislation in favour of more appropriate action.

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River): Mr. Speaker, my colleague from Winnipeg has added a very important element to this debate on this corrections legislation.

It is an element that perhaps was not addressed terribly well. I do not think it was addressed very much at all in the actual piece of legislation. In terms of the field, the area that he has addressed, generally called the one

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of crime prevention, is one that we have not addressed well as a society.

We have a long way to go. There is a little piece of crime prevention that these correction amendments try to address. When you start off in this vicious cycle of crime, you start off with a criminal act and you have a police investigation and then you have the charges. You have the trial, you have the conviction, you have the sentencing and then you have the serving of time in a facility.

You have this attempt at rehabilitation which in many cases succeeds. In far too many cases it does not. The offender is back on the street and then you are in the area of prevention of crime before another crime is permitted.

Society can get a lot of bang for its buck in crime prevention, and this bill does not address it. There was the case in Chicago. It took 20 years to generate the statistics but back in the 1960s and early 1970s there was a great investment in day care for residents of the inner city in Chicago.

Only lately have sociologists tracked the crime activity in the area involving the individuals who were able to participate in the day care program. I do not have the exact statistics but the level of criminal activity by those generally in the community is somewhere up around 10 per cent or 15 per cent. For those who participated in the day care program, their rate is something like 0.9 per cent. That is a phenomenal difference. The investment in day care back in the 1960s has changed the lives of almost every one of those kids who were in the day care program.

I want to ask the hon. member who just spoke, how does he feel about the current federal fiscal restraints, which are impacting on social welfare programs, and about what dollars we are putting into crime prevention? How does he feel those fiscal restraints are impacting on our ability to address crime prevention outside of that cycle of criminal activity that I tried to describe?

Mr. Walker: The issue of social program cutbacks cannot be stressed too much in this debate. People are saying: "You are soft in the head when you talk about this. It is really just walking away from the problem of people being criminals".