

*Supply—Justice*

find themselves in a position where our society in general, with all its activities and tradition, may be dictated by organized crime and criminal elements which have managed to infiltrate various phases of our society.

We can refer to the findings of the Dorion commission. We can refer to the expressed concern about fraudulent bankruptcy, and the many other crimes which may be tied in with that whole problem, and Canadians are apprehensive that so little seems to be done about it. I am not going to say that nothing is done about it. Today the Minister of Justice outlined a number of steps that the government is taking to try and meet this challenge. I am not going to say nothing has been done, or even that little has been done, but I do say Canadians are disturbed that so little seems to be done. This may be due to poor public relations on the part of the government, but the fact remains Canadians have the impression that little is being done to solve what has become a critical problem in our society.

The government should not have to be pushed or prodded, but the people of Canada should be informed of what is going on and what should be done. I realize this whole problem was discussed at a dominion-provincial conference attended by the Attorneys General of the provinces, which was a good thing.

Some Liberal party supporters have raised the question of the constitutionality of the appointment of a royal commission to look into this matter, and have pointed out that basically it is a problem which falls within provincial jurisdiction. That may be so. However, there are a great many issues today which formerly were under the complete jurisdiction of the provinces, but have now become a joint federal-provincial responsibility as a result of negotiations and agreements between the federal and provincial departments and agencies.

● (4:20 p.m.)

I believe determined and concerted action is required to meet this challenge. It does not matter how we approach this; if it is felt that the best agency or group to handle this is the Minister of Justice and the attorneys general, all well and good, but I hope they get down to work, get down to business and in some way or other get rid of the carping criticism which exists between these individuals, and reach a position in which they can face the issues and work together constructively to right this serious crime situation. If that

cannot be done, then I believe there should be a royal commission established.

If it is felt that a royal commission would be more effective, we would certainly go along with the establishment of such a commission. Whether this problem be solved by the attorneys general in concert or by a royal commission, I believe we all agree that there is a problem which must be tackled in the interests of this great country of ours. Therefore I would urge upon the minister and upon those associated with him the necessity for doing their utmost to see that this problem is faced and solved. If that is not done we are going to face a very difficult and serious situation in the very near future.

Mr. Chairman, there is one other matter to which I should like to refer briefly, and it is my intention to speak at greater length on this subject on a future occasion. I refer to the matter of juvenile delinquency, which is a situation of great concern to us today. All members have received the report of the committee that was set up to study this problem regarding juvenile delinquency. I have not read it completely but I have read a considerable portion of it and I can understand why there is a definite concern about this problem which faces us today.

I have figures here, which I do not intend to put on the record, in regard to the extent of the problem. I know all hon. members have received the same information, and that we recognize the extent of the problem. In this report by the committee on its study of the situation we find pointed out that no one cause is behind the problem, but rather that there are many. All of the causes working together create the situation in which we find the existence of juvenile delinquency.

It is essential that very careful analysis be made of all these issues and problems and that something positive and concrete be done to meet the challenge that is presented to us. I am sure we all recognize that youth is our greatest national asset, and that a failure to deal effectively with these problems will constitute a criminal wastage of human resources. I am sure we will all agree that a very careful, detailed and understanding attitude was taken during the study of the juvenile delinquency problem. It is not sufficient for us to get up and blast and blaze away at our young people regarding their faults, failures and shortcomings, because we have all had these, and perhaps some of us still have them. We must take a positive