

*Organized Crime*

inquisition. What is necessary is to turn the bright light of publicity on those who would exploit our fellow Canadians.

Something about which we must all surely be aware is that many of the activities of organized crime in Canada hurt the poor and defenceless in particular. Organized crime is being addressed by a Bill still before the House, that is, Bill C-61, an Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Food and Drugs Act and the Narcotic Control Act. This Bill, among other things, addresses the seizures of criminals' profits as well as money laundering. But we have yet to see this Bill available for third reading debate.

Canada still lags behind both the United States and Italy where organized crime has been examined and legislation enacted. The present Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), when he was in opposition, called for a royal commission into organized crime. So did the late Right Hon. Diefenbaker when he was in opposition. But there has never been a national commission into organized crime in Canadian history. We have had two provincial inquiries, one in Montreal and one in Ontario, the Waisberg Commission, which reported, I believe, in 1973. Both of these commissions were very effective in bringing to public attention abuses in the construction trade and other legitimate trades and unions which had been infiltrated by members of organized crime. It is this white light of publicity that will be one of the greatest deterrents to organized crime. When citizens are informed, they can protect themselves and, indeed, more public support and public pressure is needed.

Criminals fear the exposure of their crimes and the resulting efforts by society to limit profitability. The history of what has happened when organized crime has gotten into legitimate business is full of dangerous and unpleasant situations. When organized crime is involved in contract bidding in the construction industry, inferior materials can be used and lives can be lost. The corruption of public officials is necessary for this to happen and the corruption of public officials and business is very difficult to uncover. Last October, in the course of debate, the Hon. Member for St. Catharines (Mr. Reid), described how business people, well known in the community, may be drawn innocently into the circle of organized crime by the prospects of large profits, not always knowing that the links to criminal organizations exist. Poor people find themselves drawn into organized crime. They borrow, they gamble, they then find they are being pressured to do unacceptable things. In Canada and in other countries, organized criminals are protected by using legal businesses to mask their activities.

To look outside of Canada at things that have happened elsewhere in the world, I will point out that in the fall of 1986, most Members here, I think, were reading about the situation of the European Economic Community where millions of dollars a year were being drained from the Community by the very ingenious use by organized crime of the common agricultural policy in Europe. Criminals are ingenious, and if they have officials in place who can give them information about how certain systems work, they are able to exploit the system.

Something else was happening at the same time as the European Economic Community was able to pinpoint the involvement by organized crime in this exploitation and abuse of a particular compensation measure under the common agriculture policy. In Britain people were becoming concerned about the organized structure of the United States illicit drug industry moving into Britain.

● (1410)

To go back a little further, in 1982, an Italian banker was found hanging from a bridge in Blackfriars, London. It was never determined whether this was suicide or murder. But you will remember, Mr. Speaker, this banker was the head of the Vatican Bank. In fact, the Italian Justice Ministry later issued arrest warrants for senior personnel of that bank. This was again proven to be a situation in which the tentacles of organized crime had extended even into the Vatican's own bank.

Members of this House who have read the book *Mob Rule* by James Dubro will be aware of incidents that have happened in Canada in which criminals have talked about laundering their money through apparently legitimate businesses. They have also talked about their practices in corrupt registration of deeds. Much of this depends on having an official in place who is controlled by these individuals. Without someone in a key position some of these schemes would fail.

Members of this House have been lobbied on behalf of organized crime, but innocently. One particular Member of the House whose integrity is absolutely beyond question was asked by local business people who were well respected and by a priest to write to the Solicitor General asking for special treatment for a prisoner on the grounds of the prisoner's youth and inexperience. That prisoner was a key figure in organized crime who is well known now to have ordered murders from his cell and who was himself subsequently killed by a rival gang. One could go on.

We are all aware that from time to time criminals will allege that they had a judge or a policeman in their pocket. In many cases this allegation is totally without foundation. It is merely a matter of boasting and trying to appear more powerful to the people they are trying to impress. However, it may not always be boasting. While the question exists it should be examined.

I repeat what I said at the outset. I certainly would not want to see, and I know that no Member of the House would want to see, a special committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons used in any way as a fishing expedition or used in any way to endanger people's reputations without full proof. But the mere fact that such a committee was known to be sitting, was known to be willing to receive witnesses, would itself cast a very bright light of publicity on the activities of organized crime and would act as a deterrent.

We have certainly seen that whenever politicians have shown the courage to tackle organized crime they have been able to win. We need only look to that extraordinarily brave