COMMONS DEBATES

# S. O. 21

problem of the greenhouse effect and the effect this may have on Canada and, indeed, the entire globe if nothing is done. One thing that disturbed me greatly about that program was the comment that it was time the greenhouse effect became a political issue.

I went back through the records of *Hansard* and I find that colleagues of mine and myself have been raising the greenhouse issue in this House for at least five years, going back to 1983, at the very least.

I am sure I speak for all Members of Parliament when I say that an issue does not just become an issue when the media discover it is an issue. An issue should become an issue when the elected Members of Parliament bring things up in Parliament, trying to call the attention of Parliament and Canadians to issues. That was something that was been done with respect to the greenhouse effect but attention was never paid to it when it was raised.

We often hear complaints that Parliament is not relevant. Parliament has been relevant on this issue for some time now. It is others who have not been paying attention. It is about time everyone paid attention to the greenhouse effect.

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### **ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

#### LENGTH OF SENTENCES—RESEARCH FINDINGS

**Mr. Jim Jepson (London East):** Mr. Speaker, now that the capital punishment debate is over, the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, of which I am a member, has crossed the country, from Vancouver to Halifax, hearing witnesses on the most important matter of parole and sentencing. Clearly, most Canadians have expressed concern that those who have committed violent and sexual crimes are not receiving sentences that are commensurate with the crime committed, and violent criminals are being released too early on parole.

I asked the very excellent research staff of our Justice Committee to research the length of sentences for attempted murder, manslaughter, and criminal negligence causing death. I would like to share a bit of this information now.

Offenders released each year for conviction of attempted murder and manslaughter have served an average of three to four years. Those convicted of criminal negligence causing death served an average of one year to 1.3 years in penitentiary. Those convicted of rape and aggravated sexual assault served an average of two years to 3.5 years. Although each sentence has its own mitigating circumstances, this over-all record speaks for itself and is totally unacceptable.

Although the information available on parole and sentencing was limited, I still believe it confirms what myself and most Canadians believe.

## NARCOTICS

## DRUG ABUSE—RCMP ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER'S TESTIMONY TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Mr. Speaker, Canada needs an effective law to prohibit the production and distribution of illicit drug paraphernalia. Drug abuse is a very serious and tragic problem in our society, especially with young people. Not long ago a very young person in Toronto, a teenager, died as a result of drug abuse.

• (1410)

As Assistant Commissioner Stamler of the RCMP pointed out to a Legislative Committee today, the excessive production of illicit heroin, cocaine, cannabis derivatives, and other dangerous drugs, coupled with the ever sophisticated and diverse trafficking channels to Canada, continue to rank drug abuse and drug trafficking among the most critical problems facing the nation.

Drug trafficking is the most prosperous and widespread organized criminal activity in Canada today. I call upon the Government of Canada to introduce immediately legislation into the House to prohibit the production and distribution of drug paraphernalia. In Canada today there are over 500 head shops from one end of the country to the other that are selling this drug paraphernalia. We need a law to close down these head shops.

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[Translation]

## THE ENVIRONMENT

## REHABILITATION OF URBAN MILIEU—CONGRATULATIONS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS IN QUÉBEC-EST

Mr. Marcel R. Tremblay (Quebec-Est): Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to a project announced a few days ago during National Environment Week, the "For healthier cities" project.

Nearly 80 percent of Canadians are city-dwellers. It is therefore very important that municipalities rehabilitate their social and physical environment to prevent disease and to improve public's health.

I am proud to say that Quebec City is one of the 16 municipalities which have decided to do something to make their urban environment healthier.

I would also like to congratulate the various volunteer organizations in Quebec-East who are working to that end.

Mr. Speaker, I will do my utmost to make all relevant information on this project available to interested groups.

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