

motion offers an opportunity to parliament to see that Rochdale is not going to go on thumbing its nose at the people of Canada.

● (1710)

Rochdale has become more than a building, more than an institution. It has become a symbol. It symbolizes the failure of permissiveness. What began as a visible defiance of an established organized society has become itself an ironic vindication of that society. Rochdale shows what happens when people renounce the basic values that hold society together. Rochdale shows the social necessity for the much despised so-called middle class principles of going to work, meeting your mortgage, paying your taxes, paying your rent, staying off drugs and living with your family. For that reason, we have found in recent times a growing recognition by the media just what this place represents.

Time magazine called it "a highrise symbol of a noble experiment that went horribly awry". The *Toronto Star* called it "a degeneration of an educational experiment into a community menace." The *Globe and Mail* has said, "its name has been linked with suicide, perversion of the young, defiance of the law and destruction of property." Since this so-called college opened as an experiment in co-operative student housing and more unstructured education, it has been continuously at the centre of controversy. One reason has been its failure to pay either mortgage or taxes. Rents have been collected, but where has the money gone? One news report claims that according to the receivers, perhaps \$150,000 in rent money is missing. Where has the money gone? It certainly has not gone to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and certainly not to the city of Toronto.

Since 1968, Rochdale has accumulated arrears in mortgage and tax payments in excess of \$1,800,000. That is serious enough. It is serious enough for government action. However, the real reason for people's abhorrence has been the way this place has become a centre for drugs and depravity. It has been condemned by the metro Toronto police as a supermarket for drugs. Chief Harold Adamson claims it is the only centre for an organized drug traffic in Ontario. In the first three months of 1973, police seized almost \$250,000 worth of drugs. Fraser Kelly, a respected commentator, referred to it "as the largest soft-drug distributing centre in North America." In one three month period, police made 795 drug charges.

As Richard J. Needham said in the *Globe and Mail*:

It is a hotbed of drug use, drug traffic, of general filth and disorder.

A year ago the then coroner of Peel county, Dr. Martin Dobkin, was quoted by the *Toronto Sun* as saying Rochdale is "a festering abscess". A police report of the metro Toronto police commissioners showed that this had been the character of Rochdale from 1969. This report described offence after offence. I will take the time of the House to cite only one, a typical one.

On August 12, 1970, when police officers were executing an order for search of an apartment at Rochdale College, they were hindered by the actions of a security guard. The fire alarm sounded and about 75 persons gathered calling the police "pigs" and spitting at them. Upon reaching the elevator with the security guard the lights went out. After some difficulty the officers reached the apartment and found it empty.

Rochdale College

A piece of paper stating the price and weights of hashish was found. The apartment smelled highly of unsanitary conditions.

The report describes other incidents of the seduction of minors, rape of women, theft, assault, possession of weapons and homicide. Since Rochdale opened, there have been several meet their death by falling from windows of the building. One was a young man from my own constituency.

Some news reports have claimed that Rochdale is having a change of heart. We have been impressed by the prospect that under pressure, persuasion or whatever reason, there may be a new outlook developing in that institution. However, we have been fooled in the past. For example, if we go back a year to May 1973, we find a news report in the *Globe and Mail* headed "Rochdale and receiver say struggle is over". That was a year ago. They were both saying then that there was a new spirit of co-operation. They had a new policy and a new willingness to make the thing work. We hear these reports again. We hear that the college is ridding itself of the drug pushers. I notice these claims are more often made by spokesmen for Rochdale than authorities fighting the drug traffic.

If we think Rochdale is no longer what it used to be back in the bad old days of 1973, let us see how a coroner's jury in January, 1974, after another 18 year old fell to his death, recommended that all Rochdale tenants be evicted as the only way of getting rid of drug users. Coroner K. R. Baxter said it was "a festering cancer—dirty, disreputable, intolerable." Listen to what the grand jury of the country of York said as recently as last month:

Rochdale still carries on as an armed fortress of wholesale drug and narcotic receiving and distribution, the "Ontario food terminal" of the illicit drug business. There could be no real improvement and control of drug abuse in Ontario until this promotional centre is put out of business. What process of law or intestinal fortitude have been lacking in the past, must surely be evoked without further delay.

When Rochdale was opened, it was made possible largely through taxpayers money being loaned to them at a low interest rate. Maybe the objective of the authorities was understandable. Maybe it was acceptable. However, we have to recognize what has transpired since the time that decision was made.

The sponsors of this institution who came to the representatives of this so-called square, straight society to get their loan went away with the money in their pockets, all the while sneering at the society with a truly supercilious arrogance. They boasted they would give a new experience in education. All they have given Canada is an old experience in degradation. It is for that reason citizens throughout metro Toronto want Rochdale to go. You can see that any night by reading the letters to the editors of the newspapers.

● (1720)

One writes:

If any other operation owed Rochdale's back money, it would have been closed long ago.

Another writes:

I wonder how many young people must die before something is done about this incredible situation.