

We all know that what we have to do in the prison system is isolate violent offenders. We have to get some resources and some treatment in there. Then we have to get outside that system and prevent people from going into prison because it is often too late to do much when they go into prison.

I know my colleague, the member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca, is going to speak later on this morning about the prison system. I just want to come back to that question. I want to tell the hon. member before I sit down that yesterday in Montreal there was a meeting of people from all over the world to talk about crime prevention. I had a chance on Monday to meet with some of these people.

I got the manifesto of the Conservative Party in Britain on crime and law and order. I got the manifesto of the Labour Party in Britain. I got the policy in France and I will show the hon. member some writings that came from some very thoughtful Americans who want to change their country's policy. The key element of the policy people in those three countries where it is implemented in Britain and in France is to get local, to get into crime prevention, to get away from just providing more cops and more jails, to provide some real resources for people and real local control and talk about community safety. That is where it is at. That is crime prevention.

I ask the hon. member: Does he agree with me that this government has done nothing on that approach, not one thing? There is not one bill that deals with crime prevention.

We dealt with the estimates the other day. Was there anybody in the department that dealt with crime prevention? No. There is a heck of a lot of money for rich lawyers to prosecute in Vancouver especially and in Montreal and Toronto, the government's friends. Those budgets went up. However, the budget for crime prevention went down.

Does the hon. member agree with me that this Conservative government has done nothing for crime prevention? Will the hon. member tell me succinctly in plain language why his party is supporting this bill which I just think continues with a whitewash.

Mr. MacLellan: Madam Speaker, I want to deal with the hon. member's question first because I think that is my fault. I think I misled him on that.

Government Orders

I was speaking about there being some consideration for victims now, the needs of victims and the feelings of victims and there is now a beginning in dealing with incarceration of aboriginals and the treatment of aboriginals and incarceration perhaps in aboriginal communities. I said that that was a step forward and we supported it.

I meant to go on and say that this bill does not go far enough and that the Liberal Party will not be supporting the bill.

The hon. member is right, I left that out. I thank him for bringing it to my attention because this bill is not sufficient. As I went on to say, I felt it was very insufficient. The hon. member is correct. As we heard yesterday in committee when the minister was there, not only is nothing being done for crime prevention but what is being said is misleading. The government is saying that there is money going forward for crime prevention but most of it, of course, is in the area of drug and family violence. The money is not for prevention. The money is for dealing with crimes after they have occurred. However, the government is calling it crime prevention. I think that is misleading. I agree with the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam that there is nothing being done, literally nothing, on crime prevention and that is a travesty.

In fact, in the budget for the Department of Justice, in the estimates, I think it is on pages 10 and 11, we see that they actually come in under what they estimated. There is a 10 per cent decrease in justice spending for 1992–93 over what was predicted would be the budget in 1991–92. Two of the areas where it has reduced expenditures are on family violence and on drug trafficking and drug related problems.

It is a tragedy. It is an absolute tragedy that the government is just burying its head. It has no idea what is going on in our urban communities and has no idea on how to deal with it. I feel that the sense of frustration that exists has been manifested in the petitions presented by the hon. member for Halton—Peel and their concern about violence in our communities. It reflects the fact that the situation is out of control and the government does not know how to deal with it.