

*Government Orders*

come from the public and those interested in criminal law reform, but also from a standing committee of this House which has, over the last seven years that I have been a member of that committee, repeatedly demanded that the government take some action with regard to criminal law reform.

At the end of it all, here we are in November 1991 at the beginning of crime prevention week and the government says: "Well, we are taking the initiative, we are going to provide the leadership, and look at what we are doing. All week long we are going to be introducing and discussing and debating changes to the criminal justice system".

That is absolutely no way to deal with criminal law reform; a cynical, manipulative, public relations-driven way of trying to score some cheap political points in the middle of crime prevention week to pretend to the public that this government is concerned about criminal law reform.

I refer back to the headline "Parole System Overhaul a Big Scam on the Public".

Bill C-36 is certainly a lengthy bill. As we can see here and as the minister said, it is complicated legislation. I carefully read this a number of times and I have come to the conclusion that again, as was the proposal in the fall of 1988, it is tinkering. It is tinkering with the criminal justice system. This government has no over-all comprehensive plan to deal with criminal law reform in this country. Again, it is an example of the government ad libbing its way, almost with a blindfold on, ad libbing its way through criminal law reform when what is necessary in this country is some fundamental reform. I am afraid that this government has not approached the problem in a comprehensive way.

The minister says his counterpart, the Minister of Justice, will be introducing legislation dealing with sentencing reform. With all due respect to the Solicitor General, how can the legislative committee or the justice committee that will be dealing with Bill C-36, and the witnesses that appear before the committee, adequately and intelligently deal with reform of the parole system without looking at sentencing reform at the same time?

Therefore, what we have here is only half the package. Correctional law reform is only half of the package because it only deals with people once a judge sentences

an offender to a period of incarceration. What we need is the other half of the package at the same time so we can move forward together with a comprehensive proposal and we can look at the sentencing structure in Canada, look at some of the very good recommendations that were made in this report *Taking Responsibility* and to look at ways of changing the system so that the public in Canada starts having some respect and confidence in the criminal justice system.

The sad reality is that today the public has very little, if any respect at all or confidence in the criminal justice system. Is it any wonder when you pick up the morning paper and read about the latest murder or the latest rape or robbery in your particular community?

I picked up *The Toronto Star* this morning, and what are the headlines? "Disabled man slain by intruder in home". The lead paragraph states: "A partly paralyzed North York man was beaten to death in his bedroom by an intruder as his elderly wife ran for help".

A headline right beside it: "Motel guest found by maid is metro's 74th homicide", 74 homicides this year compared to 46 murders at this time last year.

The public is justifiably alarmed at what is happening in our communities and in particular in metropolitan Toronto. I represent a riding in west metro, and my constituents have told me time and time again, and more so now, that they are afraid of what is happening in our community.

Just down the street, a few doors away from my constituency office a few days ago a couple of people walked into an after hours club and shot and killed two people. We see that day in and day out in Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Halifax. The crime rate is increasing. People are becoming afraid to walk in their own communities. Women in particular are afraid to walk in the evenings. If you will recall, it used to be a concern walking in downtown Toronto in the evening. Now people are afraid to walk in their own communities. They are afraid to take an evening stroll after dinner in their own community because of a fear that something may happen.

In a community not far from where I live, a business woman by the name of Caroline Case has gone missing. She disappeared a number of weeks ago and foul play is suspected there. I can say that my wife and other people