

*Government Orders*

Those community policemen have made a big difference. There are a number of volunteers who work with them. In one of the offices there are 80 volunteers. I can say that as someone working as a politician in the inner city, 80 volunteers is a lot of people. They work seven days a week trying to help out. That is a municipal role, not my role. On the other hand, these community police officers are seen as being outside the mainstream of their police force. Therefore, they turn to us for support so that the police chief and the senior district police officers know they are doing important work and that they are supported by the community.

• (1250 )

In another neighbourhood, in another community, there is a problem with drinking, which leads to dysfunctional behaviour on the street which is very upsetting to the long-term residents. We have to fight to deal with substance abuse. If you go through the federal government and try to find a department that understands the contents of Chinese cooking wine, for example, try to trace back how Chinese cooking wine gets into the country and you cannot find it. Try to read the labels, which are not even in English and French but only in Chinese, and you wonder how these products find their way to Winnipeg.

There is a role for the federal government to help these groups solve these problems.

You can then go on to the problem of street prostitution. In one neighbourhood, in the Lord Selkirk area, people regularly drive through the neighbourhoods looking for young men and women, anywhere from age 12 and up. It is very discouraging for the parents and the community groups trying to fight this problem to find that they do not have the legislative framework to deal with street prostitution. They have no way of saying to the people driving through the neighbourhoods that they should not be driving through this neighbourhood looking for our children.

As a result of a public demonstration and a press conference, I wrote to the Solicitor General. He wrote back a long letter explaining why this could not be done under present circumstances. To the credit of the minister, he expressed an interest in this problem and indicated his willingness to get involved with a demonstration project if the neighbours found one appropriate to the government. This is the sort of response which is necessary from the government.

It is not necessarily a large battle, but it is one so

important to the infrastructure and the stability of a neighbourhood. It is more important to spend your time providing a legislative framework for dealing with child prostitution than it is bringing in Bill C-36, which walks away from the dilemmas being faced at the community level.

On the question of youth in the aboriginal community, those of you who know the western Canadian penal system will know that there is a heavy over-representation of aboriginal youth in our prisons. This is totally unacceptable and efforts must be made at the community level through drop-out programs and through other interesting projects to ensure that aboriginal youth have a future in our cities, that they are properly trained, that they have jobs and that there are education opportunities for them.

Last year, a group of youth from this community working with the Native Alcoholism Council of Manitoba came up with the idea that it should have a sobriety pow-wow. Without any particular organizational skills, the group sat down and worked out a weekend pow-wow. Forty-five hundred people showed up to celebrate sobriety. They are coming back this year to put together another program. I would challenge other members of the House to find a program that would help these young people support the reference for a sober family life and a sober personal life. It is fundamental to improving conditions within the aboriginal community in the inner cities.

There are a number of initiatives that can be taken at the community level. I look around Winnipeg North Centre where people are concerned about safety in the streets and turn to the federal government. Many of them want harsher treatment because they are frustrated and angry. Many of them want to know that the person living next door is not out illegally. They want to know that the person who has been let out on parole is a safe person. They want to know all these things and we cannot walk away from that.

They also want to know that there is a place for their children in recreation. They also want to know that if a senior is walking to the bus stop, there is enough of a support system, that there are police around and that the municipalities are not being squeezed so much by the federal government that there is nothing left for them.