

People who want to earn an honest living for themselves and to provide for their families do not turn to crime, even though they hand back too much of their earnings to a spendthrift government. Why does anyone rob another? It is usually to obtain money or a thing of value to sell. Why are so many able-bodied Canadians today unwilling to accept the jobs offered? One cannot blame those who do not believe they should work for their living because the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said those who do not want to work need not do so. How true that is under the programs of his government. To encourage laziness and destroy incentive fosters crime. When criminals are not punished, and I mean punished, when in prison, they look to prisons for their livelihood, and why not? They are not compelled to work there either.

Instead of spending the time of this House on legislation to restrict our people's freedoms, the government should be bringing in legislation to provide work, to see that those who are able do work before they receive benefits, and to deal with law-breakers as criminals instead of coddling them as if they were privileged.

To get to the root of crime and criminals one must consider the moral standards of a country, how our fellow-man is treated, and what has turned a good citizen into a law-breaker. Rehabilitation of prisoners is important and necessary, but more important are the maintenance and rehabilitation of people before they are lead or driven along that downward road. Many offences are committed because of frustration, permissiveness, domination, insecurity, malnutrition, improper conditions, with no future goal.

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First offenders are entitled to careful treatment, humane discipline, and an opportunity eventually to return to mingle with their friends, neighbours and families, to work to better themselves. Very often ex-inmates return to lives of crime simply because they know they will be afforded every comfort in prison, and little punishment for another offence. One never hears of an escapee or a former prisoner failing to commit a crime for want of a weapon.

This bill would place restrictions on millions in a lame attempt to trap the minority who are bent on breaking the law. Punishment is meted out to legitimate citizens to protect delinquents, who do not earn their keep, so law-abiding Canadians pay once more.

Many of my constituents have expressed doubts and asked countless questions about Bill C-83. Does the government not realize how difficult it will be to administer this vague and inadequate legislation? Did no one, not even within cabinet, stop long enough to think what the cost would be and how policemen would be hampered, while citizens are harassed, by these measures? Our police are faced with too many risks to their lives now, as well as with escapees who do not honour life. Why should they when their own is not at stake? Already-over-burdened officers of the law will be loaded down with innumerable additional investigations and doubts under this bill.

People are wondering what the next federal infringement on their basic rights and fundamental freedoms will be. My people want to know why the ideas and recommendations of one person or of a small group are accepted and

### *Measures Against Crime*

legislated by the government while the suggestions, opinions, and pleas of millions of taxpayers are ignored. Even cabinet ministers were elected to parliament to listen to their constituents and to heed the majority of Canadians on important issues like this. In their comfortable pews, in which they are untouchable and unreachable inside or outside this Chamber, have they forgotten completely why they are here? I want to remind them that they are here to serve Canada and her people, not to turn our country into a dictatorship just to satisfy their or their colleagues' whims. Parliament's duty and role should be to legislate for the betterment of Canada and Canadians and uphold democracy. This government, Mr. Speaker, has become too accustomed to shoving measures through this House and committees.

The Minister of Justice and his colleagues could still redeem some of the respect they have lost and improve the image they have marred. They could do this by supporting the amendment by the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) and regain a degree of the faith of the people of this country. They could do so by one simple procedure—divide Bill C-83 by placing the gun control provisions in a separate bill. Human nature admires anyone who admits he is wrong; everyone is entitled to some mistakes and misjudgments. Mr. Speaker, it takes a big man to admit his failures, and I would hope that the government is big enough in the right way to reconsider Bill C-83 and our requests.

If the government refuses to go along with the reasonable proposal to divide Bill C-83, all the excuses, camouflages, coverups, yes even telephones calls, or personal representations, will not and cannot turn it into a responsible and dependable government.

The government has a lot of answers to give. Why did the cabinet not accept the offer of fish and game associations to assist in drafting suitable gun legislation? Has the government already started to hire personnel to administer this program? Is the reported estimate of 900 employees going to be required to implement these laws? These are only a few of the questions not answered; there will be many more if this bill is passed in its present form.

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to say a few words on Bill C-83, the peace and security package of legislation which the government has brought before the House. I believe legislation to control crime is being demanded by our Canadian people all across this country.

This bill deals with many aspects of our criminal justice system. We know of course these measures are not a total answer to the problem of crime. The crime rate has increased by about 31 per cent between 1970 and 1974. These measures are but the tools with which the police forces and our courts can deal with crime more effectively. The total problem relates to many aspects of our society including our family life, the media, the attitudes of our society, housing, our education programs, unemployment and our whole value system. Although the steps we take in this legislation are important and necessary, surely they do not represent the total answer because that is a much wider question.