

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE—WAR AGAINST DRUGS.

Mr. Jean-Guy Guilbault (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say that today's question was postponed several times, although on several occasions I stayed in the House as late as ten o'clock at night, hoping to express my views on the very important subject of drug trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank you for this opportunity to pursue the subject raised in the House on May 31 in a question to the Solicitor General of Canada (Mr. Blais) about the war against drugs, further to the national annual report on drugs for 1987-88, published by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The report showed that enforcement techniques had improved and that international co-operation and the passage of new legislation on the profits of criminal behaviour will have a severe impact on major drug trafficking organizations. In the Western world, the RCMP has a solid reputation for its drug awareness programs.

Compared with 1986, the RCMP seized 41 per cent more cocaine and 94 per cent more cannabis in 1987. In Quebec, as part of its campaign against the profits of crime, it confiscated 25 per cent of those profits in the form of money and goods. These seizures concerned a total of \$18.6 million, of which \$4.8 million in Quebec. International trafficking in illegal drugs has increased spectacularly over the past few years, and apparently, drug profits are being used partly to finance terrorism.

The major organized groups that control the drug trade in Canada have established elaborate money laundering systems and are thus becoming increasingly powerful. In Canada, drug imports and sales generate between \$5 and \$10 billion annually. Montreal, where the number of users has tripled in the past two years, has confirmed its position as a focal point for the drug trade. Mr. Speaker, Montreal has between 10,000 and 15,000 of Canada's 25,000 heroin addicts, while their number was estimated at only 5,000 at the beginning of 1987. Drug-related problems, including daily stress, personal and family problems, a higher incidence of criminal offences and traffic accidents as well as the rising cost of enforcement and health care, are a major social concern.

According to the Drug Addiction Research Foundation, the cost of drug abuse in Canada in 1984 totalled \$11.5 billion. From 1976 to 1986, the number of viola-

tions of the Narcotics Act totalled 691,713. The number of persons convicted of these offences totalled 561,248.

The number of young people charged with a criminal offence under federal drug legislation was 4,767 in 1986 alone. More crimes, deaths, and disease will be inevitable in most Canadian cities if the expected increase in cocaine and crack in the 90's materializes, since a report published by the mayor of Ottawa in June, *Drug Abuse: Not my kid*, revealed an increasingly serious problem with drug abuse.

Worse still, there is a shortage of treatment centres for youngsters under age 16. They must be sent to the United States, and that entails astronomical expenditures. Every day we can read newspaper articles on drugs and their devastating effects. Proliferating drug use creates a new threat to national security: the value of life is minimized, crime soars, and young people ruin their lives for ever.

Police forces in the riding of Drummond have given priority to the fight against drugs. I am proud indeed to say that a commendable effort is being made in schools and within the whole community under the supervision of Director General Marcel Lefebvre and constable Rémi Thibault.

Training programs have also been made available to the Drummond Penitentiary staff, and theirs is the most elaborate drug addiction program in Québec.

In 1987 the Solicitor General of Canada announced the adoption of measures aimed at putting an end to drug trafficking. The Government has earmarked \$210 million for this new strategy.

The Department of National Defence will provide more direct support in operations against drug dealers by making Canadian Forces aircraft and ships available to the RCMP.

The Minister of National Revenue announced that beginning last May 9 civil sanctions would be applied to discourage drug smuggling.

Other measures are to be taken to promote co-operation and an approach which reflects the national anti-drug strategy.

Awareness and prevention programs alone however will not put an end to the availability of drugs and the dependence they create.

Adjournment Debate