

Organized Crime

oath which they did not intend to uphold. The problem is that the proposal of the Hon. Member for Trinity, while it may not be exactly parallel to that, has a similar ring to it.

If we were to conduct public hearings across Canada of the nature the Hon. Member is proposing, those people who have been affected by organized crime would be the least likely to come forward to give testimony in a public hearing because of the nature of the problem. What person who has been caught in the grip of extortionate financiers, threatened for not keeping up extortionate payments, what person who has had his life or possessions threatened or has been told that his legs will be broken if he does not pay that 30 per cent on his loan, will come forward in a public hearing to give evidence of how organized crime is treating him in Canada? Will people like that come forward?

The nature of the problem militates against the success of the proposal. If we recall the Congressional hearings in the United States, the only people who came forward were those who were totally disguised and had been given immunity. They were people who had earlier been convicted of a crime or who were part of the family of crime in the United States and were

given immunity from further prosecution or were promised protection. They were people who were plea-bargaining. They appeared because their sentences were minimized or done away with. Those Congressional hearings were at least moderately successful.

However, the proposal of the Hon. Member, while it is a goal that the Government shares and I certainly endorse, will probably not be workable. While I commend her for the goal and the ambition she is showing in trying to deal with organized crime, I think the proposal itself would not be a workable one.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 42(1), the order is dropped from the Order Paper.

It being three o'clock, this House stands adjourned until Monday next at eleven o'clock pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 3 p.m.
