

Organized Crime

we can find out who these people are, how they get into this country, how much infiltration there is from the United States, Europe, Asia, Hong Kong or any other place. I agree with the hon. member for New Westminster; it is beyond my comprehension how the government can continue to say no to a judicial inquiry.

Therefore, I can only ask the government this: Do they fear an inquiry? Have they got something to hide which they know about, such as Hal Banks or Doyle?

Mr. Basford: Oh, come on.

Mr. Woolliams: I do not know whether they have, so let us have an inquiry.

Mr. Basford: This is a serious subject.

Mr. Woolliams: It is a very serious subject and I wish the minister would treat it seriously instead of brushing it off or hiding behind a smokescreen. The only thing the government has done to control crime was in connection with capital punishment. Although we on this side had a free vote on that issue, the vote was not free for cabinet members. The increase in the crime of murder went up by 115 per cent in one year in Canada, and much of that is committed by organized criminals. I say that the time has come for a royal commission to investigate organized and syndicated crime.

Ten years ago the press were saying that racketeers and organized criminals were better co-ordinated than Canadian lawmen. RCMP officials at that time gave us the dire warning that United States crime bosses were taking over this country. Jet age crime, as one columnist called it, was challenging on a big scale, exploiting the weaknesses of divided authority and loose liaison. The right hon. member for Prince Albert, in commenting on the Speech from the Throne in 1967, has this to say:

There is not a word in the speech about crime. I do not intend to fill the record with statements of recent days about the mafia, but there is no doubt that there has been and is today a continuing disregard of the law by persons responsible for this situation. . . . the time has come to do something in connection with the crime explosion. I suggest a royal commission to look into the whole picture of crime and its expansion.

On September 23, 1964, in relation to the Banks affair—I know my hon. friend does not like that—I asked the then prime minister, Mr. Pearson, for a royal commission which would, among other things, determine how Banks was able to ignore and avoid the law. Banks was convicted, let out on bail and he left the country. The then secretary of state for the United States admitted that the Democrat party had received \$100,000 from the SIU, from the man who Canada allowed to escape, the man who many in the press claim, not by innuendo but on police information, had political connections in this House. The right hon. member for Prince Albert went on to say:

I should like to see a little action with regard to international crime.

But we have had nothing but words. As I have said, on October 13 the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) perpetuated the policy of his predecessor and said that the government would

[Mr. Woolliams.]

not yield to the request of the opposition for an investigation into syndicated crime in our urban cities. As I say, all words and no action. Then on February 5, 1971, the former prime minister said, as reported at page 3125 of *Hansard*:

—I should like the minister to consider the setting up of a royal commission to look fully into the question of infiltration into Canada of international wrongdoers—

We have lots of evidence in this regard, so again I ask in all seriousness, why is the government saying no? The Solicitor General says that this might interfere with the police. The facts are that the province of Quebec found syndicated crime existing in Montreal, and by setting up an investigation they were able to help the police through the evidence which flowed therefrom. We cannot tell how many cases where charges were laid and convictions obtained resulted from that investigation. During that time many of these people left Montreal and went to other cities.

Another matter I cannot understand is this. In Bill C-83 the Minister of Justice included a section which was in the bill last session, a criminal amendment, giving authority to the provinces to hold an inquiry. We said then that they did not need that law. The Supreme Court of Canada says that under the British North America Act, Canada has the authority, in reference to the administration of justice under section 91, to hold that royal commission. The government has advocated leaving this up to the provinces. Are we going to have, apart from Quebec, nine royal commissions looking into the problems across the nation? It is time this government, the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General measured up to their responsibilities.

• (1640)

Good, hard police work, without wiretapping, found out that Eaton's in Calgary, on a big sale day, would be blown up in order to get money out of their vault. How many people would have been murdered? The ring which was going to blow up Eaton's in Calgary came from Vancouver, Montreal and Calgary. Across this land there are syndicated people receiving money for murder, fraud and all types of crime as described under our code. That degrades the whole social structure of this country and erodes our youth and the people across this land.

I see, Mr. Speaker, you are about to rise. This is an important subject and I will not take longer than my 20 minutes. I should like to end with these words. For ten long years this party has stood positively for a royal commission set up by the federal government to investigate crime. That is our policy, and that is what we will do when we are elected to the government of Canada.

[*Translation*]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, during the few minutes allotted to me I would like to make a few comments on the motion moved today by my colleagues of the New Democratic Party on the relevance of a royal commission on organized crime in Canada. It is not a matter which can be easily solved. I heard the speech made by the mover (Mr.