

### *Organized Crime*

for exactly the reasons we have put forward today. They found that you must deal with organized crime on a national basis, because these criminals can move from one community to another so quickly and act so ruthlessly that you cannot hamper them with regional commissions. Our government will not look this obvious fact in the face. It is resisting the call for a royal commission because it comes from the opposition. I am sure if the backbenchers of the Liberal party had asked for it, the government would have jumped on the bandwagon right away.

I plead with the government not to make this a political issue. If you want to give Jacques Lavoie the credit for it, go ahead. It will not bother us so long as we establish the commission. Or give Jack Horner the credit. I am sure Jack would support a royal commission into almost anything.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner):** Order, please. Would the hon. member please refer to members of this House by their ridings, and not by their names?

**Mr. Leggett:** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member for Crowfoot (Mr. Horner) and the hon. member for Hochelaga (Mr. Lavoie) will forgive me. I want the minister to consider the precedents established in the United States where organized crime has been a serious problem for a long time. In 1950, the United States attorney general convened a national conference on organized crime. In that year, as well, there were held well publicized hearings of Senator Kefauver's Senate special committee into organized crime. In 1957, Senator McClellan's select Senate committee looked into organized crime's infiltration of business and labour. In 1958, the attorney general's special group on organized crime was formed within the department of justice of the United States. In 1961, OCR was vastly expanded in order to get regular reports on organized crime from 26 federal government agencies. As well, the number of OCR attorneys was quadrupled.

In 1966, President Johnson restated his determination to accelerate the war on organized crime and launched the president's commission on law enforcement and administration of justice, which included a task force on organized crime. Incidentally, that 1966 report, if I may summarize it, called for limited wiretap provisions, with severe restrictions to protect the civil liberties and privacy of individuals. That was a government that was tough on crime; it was attacking crime. But even then they wanted very clear and severe restrictions on the privacy law. I would ask the minister again to look at that report.

● (1540)

In 1967, the recommendations of this commission were presented. In 1970, arising from the 1967 report, all organized crime efforts in the federal government were co-ordinated by the newly created national council on organized crime, and I emphasize that it was the national council on organized crime. In 1970, the U.S. organized crime control act became law. In 1977, the federal organized crime task force acted as an ongoing co-ordination and action agency against the activities

[Mr. Leggett.]

of organized crime, and in 1977 at least one U.S. university had an institute of organized crime. That is a pretty interesting record to which this government has had access and for which it has had a precedent, because surely it was aware that organized crime, which knows no boundaries or borders, was infiltrating major urban centres in Canada. Compare the record in the United States with the record of the government in this country against organized crime and you will find it is a do-nothing record.

What can we see as the accomplishments of a royal commission? In British Columbia—I might say, under the NDP government at that time—a co-ordinated law enforcement unit was formed. I am sure even my good friend, the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams), would agree with the establishment of the law enforcement unit because it has since been carried on by the present government in a very effective way. The principles behind a co-ordinated law enforcement unit are exactly the kind of principles we should apply at the national level.

**Mr. Fox:** Right on.

**Mr. Leggett:** One reason it is necessary to have a royal commission is that royal commissioners can examine the question and be given a mandate to recommend that the co-ordination of law enforcement should take place at the national level, and so they can examine the reports of the British Columbia commission. I want to read the reason the co-ordinated law enforcement unit was formed. If you can apply that logic, I am sure the Solicitor General will agree that a royal commission should be given a mandate to inquire into this matter. This is from the introduction of the CLEU report. It reads:

The tactic of forming a massive joint forces operation to combat organized crime was advocated by the police themselves, who had had considerable success with combined-force efforts in the past. At the same time, a manpower utilization study found that police expended too much of their time on activities such as escorting and guarding prisoners, or in handling court officer duty. An expansion of the sheriff's office was conceived, and training provided so that sheriff's officers could assume these non-police functions. As the sheriffs took up their new tasks, police officers were released to undertake operational activities.

The co-ordinated law enforcement unit was established:

- (a) To provide long term study into the activities of an individual, or group, believe to be involved in organized crime, where, because of limitations of jurisdiction, manpower, budget, or diversity of criminal activity, no single agency could be expected to devote its total resources.
- (b) To stimulate and co-ordinate interdepartmental and intragovernmental co-operation between the various federal, provincial and municipal agencies and the British Columbia Department of the Attorney General.
- (c) To provide the proper atmosphere under which the various agencies could develop the intelligence gathering process and expedite information exchange.
- (d) To develop investigation to the point where it established that a criminal offence had been, was being, or might be committed—

It goes on in terms of the justification of the first report of CLEU in British Columbia. Each and every reason for the existence of the co-ordinated law enforcement unit applies on the national scene. It is too bad that the Minister of Justice and the Solicitor General did not move in terms of the national level so that we would have a formal body formed, because the problems they are seeking to solve in British Columbia are the same problems they are trying to solve in Toronto, Quebec and