

Their fourth point was about the more than 130 women who had been attacked. They indicated to us that plea bargaining reduced this to seven charges. This discounted the trauma of 122 women. Many of these women had psychological problems. They are still having psychological problems today.

Some of the marriages of these women broke up. Some of them had family problems. Some of them were not able to work very well and I believe that is a travesty.

They also indicated that our judicial system is eager to rehabilitate the offender but does nothing to offer psychological counselling for victims or to provide any of the material needs of the victims. The victims gave me an example where Larry Takahashi broke into a house and then there was compensation for the window that was broken. However, with this one particular woman, her marriage broke apart. She needed counselling and the government would only cover six sessions of this.

This is seven years after it happened and she is still experiencing that emotional trauma which is terrible.

The police treated her quite badly. I know the police are trying. They are trying their best to implement new rules. As an example, the police took sheets so they could take them to the lab and examine them for evidence. They cut big holes in these sheets.

Two years after they had taken them, the doorbell rang at one of the victim's homes. A delivery person said: "Here are your sheets back". I think that was appalling that they would bring these sheets back with large holes cut out of them without any forewarning or anything. We certainly can do an awful lot more for victims.

The parole legislation, Bill C-36, was introduced by the government. The justice committee, acting as a legislative committee, toured the country. It went to Vancouver where it heard a number of witnesses and then it came to Edmonton. The justice committee, of which I am a member, heard again the victims of Larry Takahashi. At that time we stated we would listen to them—in Bill C-36—and take some of their concerns forward. We did that.

I am very very pleased with the progress. It shows that private members can have an impact. We had 16 mem-

bers from the Alberta Progressive Conservative caucus act on behalf of people in Edmonton, in Alberta, across Canada, and I am pleased the government has responded.

The official government response, Bill C-36, is not perfect but it goes a long long way in addressing some of these needs. I hope to hear from the government and other members of Parliament on this issue. This is such an important issue for Canadians.

People are losing faith in their justice system and we have to restore that faith. We have to balance the different interests of people acting within the judicial system. We have got to tip the balance back a little bit toward the victim which I believe we have done and that is very important.

I will close with those remarks. I want to thank my colleagues in the Alberta caucus and others who have supported this bill so much. I am looking forward to hearing the views of my colleagues.

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, I find it most interesting that we are now dealing with this particular matter of Bill C-311.

We have just gone through the process of considering Bill C-36 which went through a large number of the issues that are raised in this bill. I want to say from the outset that we on this side are supportive of some of the recommendations that were in Bill C-36. In fact, we went a long way to try improve Bill C-36 and we did not meet with the success we had hoped for because of the member opposite and by the party opposite.

THE ROYAL ASSENT

[Translation]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Deputy to the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate Chamber.

And being returned: