

[Translation]

**Mr. Michel Daviault (Ahuntsic):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the minister that community groups are often front-line groups that are interested in and help people in difficulty.

How can the minister justify the fact that, with Quebec's very high unemployment rate, his only solution is to cut the EDPs and reserve the right to allocate funds as he wishes? Is he preparing for the referendum?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification):** Mr. Speaker, in fact, there are now 50,000 more jobs in Quebec than last October. There has been a large increase in the number of jobs in the province of Quebec, and I hope that progress will be made in the future. But I must repeat that our government's priority is to assist those who are most in need, such as unemployed young people. And I hope we can count on the support of the hon. member and his colleagues in this effort.

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[English]

#### YOUNG OFFENDERS

**Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice.

Last week Nicholas Battersby, a young man from England, was gunned down on the streets of Ottawa by several young offenders. Canadians are sick and tired of inaction.

• (1500)

When is the Minister of Justice going to move beyond talk and when is he actually going to do something? When is the minister going to reform the Young Offenders Act? What is the hold-up?

**Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I want first of all to express my sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives not only in that crime but in a number of savage and senseless crimes in recent weeks.

I also wish to emphasize in response to the hon. member's question that we cannot let our anger and our grief and our concern about these dreadful events lead us to believe there is a simple or quick solution to the underlying problems of which they are tragic symptoms.

Long before the events of recent weeks this government was working intensively on a specific agenda of concrete action to deal with these issues involving specific changes to the criminal laws to make them more effective, including changes to the Young Offenders Act and the Criminal Code, and at the same time initiatives in respect to crime prevention which ultimately

#### Speaker's Ruling

will be just as effective if not more so in dealing with the problems.

I assure my hon. friend that in the weeks to come he will see ample concrete steps taken by this government to deal with young offenders and crime in general in this society.

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[Translation]

#### PRESENCE IN GALLERY

**The Speaker:** I wish to draw the attention of members to the presence in our gallery of His Excellency Francisque Ravony, Prime Minister of the Republic of Madagascar.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

[English]

**The Speaker:** I also draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Ghaus Bux Khan Maher, speaker of the provincial assembly of Sindh, Pakistan.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

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#### BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION ACT, 1994

##### SPEAKER'S RULING

**The Speaker:** I am prepared to make a ruling on the point of order raised by the member for Calgary West on March 25, 1994 regarding omnibus bills.

I would like to thank the hon. member and also the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader and the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell for the contributions to the discussion.

In his presentation the hon. member for Calgary West contended that Bill C-17, an act to amend certain statutes to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on February 22, 1994, is an omnibus bill and as such should be ruled out of order and should not be considered by the House in its present form.

He also maintained there is no unifying principle contained in the bill, that the omnibus bill attempts to amend several different existing laws, that such a bill forces members to take one decision applicable to several different issues and finally that the variety of issues contained in the bill may cause difficulties for the committee charged to study it.

The hon. member also cited the January 26, 1971 ruling of Speaker Lamoureux as well as citation 626.1 of Beauchesne's sixth edition in supporting his argument.

[Translation]

Before addressing the issues raised by the hon. member, I would like to do as my predecessors have done in the past and review for the House our practices regarding omnibus bills.