

its resources and staff be increased. Indeed, the Minister should consider the possibility of a special unit such as has been established in the United States to attempt to identify Nazi war criminals in Canada.

We must address another very fundamental question in the context of this issue. Having identified the possibility of Nazi war criminals on Canadian soil, there must surely also exist a mechanism in Canada to ensure that those war criminals who cannot be extradited to other countries, for whatever reason, do not escape their day of reckoning for the crimes that they are alleged to have committed.

For that reason I would strongly urge the Government to consider seriously implementing the recommendations of the Law Reform Commission on this question. We must establish a means of trying, with all of the legal safeguards which exist in the Canadian judicial system, those individuals in Canada who cannot be extradited to other countries. In that regard I regret the decision of the Government not to permit the possibility of an amendment to the Criminal Code which would have facilitated such trials in Canada.

● (1520)

It has been noted already that the passage of time cannot in any way erase the enormity of the crimes that we are dealing with here, and this has come into sharp focus recently. Many of the victims of the holocaust and their families are still alive. The trial in Israel has clearly documented the atrocities committed by Dr. Mengele. This Commission of Inquiry must have full access to all documents, including immigration documents, records of refugees who have come to Canada, and indeed must be able to look at Cabinet documents to ensure that there is no stone left unturned in our pursuit of justice.

Today there are those in Canada who would deny that the holocaust occurred, who would deny that six million Jews died. We in this Parliament must take every possible step to ensure, first that the perpetrators of those crimes are brought to justice; second, that there is an environment in this country which will lead to justice and not perpetrate the kind of anti-Semitism which was the seed of Naziism in Germany. When we see the burning of synagogues in my own area of Vancouver, when we see denial of the holocaust in courtrooms in this land and when we look at the possibility of Canadian Government complicity with respect to Josef Mengele, these are all questions that must be addressed by this Commission.

I welcome the decision of the Government, Mr. Speaker, as do members of my Party, to establish this Commission. I certainly hope that at the same time as the Commission is studying various alternatives the Government would press forward to examine carefully whether these Nazi war criminals are in Canada and to look at the possibility of prosecution of those individuals in Canada.

In closing, I would note, as has already been stated, that not only are the perpetrators of these atrocities still alive in many cases but so also are their victims, and not just in Canada but everywhere. It is our obligation, as citizens not only of Canada but of the world, to ensure that crimes against humanity are

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not left unpunished. To the extent that the establishment of this Commission will help to achieve this objective, we welcome it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Are there any questions?

**Mr. Crosbie:** May I respond, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Speaker:** No, it is not possible.

**Mr. Hawkes:** Mr. Speaker, Members will know that this past fall I had the honour of representing the Government at the United Nations as a member of the Canadian delegation. On the floor of the Third Committee I made a statement at one point which invited all member nations present to send to Canada and to the Canadian Government any information that might be in their possession on the subject of Nazi war criminals who might be resident in Canada.

May I ask the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie) whether, if that information comes to the Government of Canada at this point or in the next few months, it will be passed on to the Commission? Second, does the Government of Canada or the Commissioner in his instructions have any intention of writing to other governments which might be in a position to provide information and advice to us on how best to proceed? Is there anything in those terms of reference that would broaden that inquiry in a deliberate way to seek information from other nations?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, the terms of reference of the inquiry are quite broad. There is nothing in the terms of reference that will prevent the Commissioner from seeking information from other countries. In fact, we contemplate he will visit other countries and authorities in other countries to see what further information he can obtain. If he finds that some alleged war criminals are present in this country, he will then follow up as to how they go into this country, and then naturally he will have to ask questions in other countries.

I am glad the hon. gentleman has asked me this question. He, at least, indicates that he approves of this inquiry. The Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan), who had been in government for four years, had the audacity to try to blame us for taking no action. For only nine months in 1979 and 1980 and for the past five months the Progressive Conservative Party has been in power, whereas for 22 years the Liberal Party was in power. For four years the Hon. Member for York Centre was in office. And he gets up today to criticize us for not taking action!

**Mr. Deans:** Ignore him.

**Mr. Crosbie:** I will pass that by because the critic for the New Democratic Party rectified his own sins of error and omission by welcoming the inquiry. I believe this is the way we can establish the facts. We can find out who is responsible for allowing alleged war criminals into Canada since 1945. We do know that of the 40-year period that has expired, 33.1 years were a period of Liberal government, four of them a period of time during which the Member for York Centre was Solicitor