

Oral Questions

not want to discuss that case because at least two people have been taken into custody and that is a matter for the courts.

Let me speak to the broader point the hon. member has raised not for the first time in this House. Let me say I have responded not for the first time in this House that this government, from its platform through to its present policy, has recognized the need for changes to the Young Offenders Act. A thorough review of the statute is needed to determine whether it continues to meet the needs of the Canadian public.

• (1455)

As I have told my hon. friend in the past we are going to introduce legislation in this House in June to make specific changes to the statute. At the same time we will turn the Young Offenders Act in its entirety over to the justice committee of which the hon. member is a member for a thorough review to ensure it meets the needs of juvenile justice in Canada.

That is the same response I gave last time. I shall give that response the next time the hon. member asks the same question.

Mr. Myron Thompson (Wild Rose): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I will probably have to ask the same question about a new case. How many people have to die before this government will realize the legislation they have had in place for 16 years is useless? It is time to act.

This Young Offenders Act is inherently flawed. Any amount of tinkering this government will do will not fix it. We need completely new legislation for young offenders.

Will the minister replace this legislation? Will the minister scrap the act?

Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have already said the justice committee will be asked to look at the act to determine whether it ought to be changed further, beyond the changes we are going to introduce in June.

Let me add that it seems to me the hon. member is falling into the error of assuming the tragedies to which he refers, the crimes to which he makes reference in his questions, can be averted or overcome by the simple expedient of changing a piece of legislation. The difficulties and problems to which he refers run deeper than that.

The approach this government is taking is not only to introduce changes to statutes as required, and that we shall do, but also to address the broader question of crime prevention in this country, also a priority for this government.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Mr. Tony Ianno (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry.

As the Canadian telephone sales and telemarketing industry continues to grow, so has an increase in telephone sales fraud. Telephone sales fraud has become alarmingly commonplace with some studies estimating that it defrauds the public of up to \$100 million. These fraudulent practices affect all Canadians but especially senior citizens.

What is the minister prepared to do or doing at this time to protect Canadians from this telephone sales fraud?

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry): Mr. Speaker, I thank the member not only for his question but also for raising this issue in the House of Commons at this time.

It is a very important concern not just of our department and of the Bureau of Competition Policy but it should be a matter of concern for all Canadians.

As he mentions senior citizens particularly have been victimized by fraudulent telemarketing activities. For that reason the Bureau of Competition Policy which is responsible for enforcing laws respecting misleading advertising has included a flyer with the old age security cheques. This notice warns senior citizens of the danger of telephone fraud and of making the appropriate inquiries when telephone calls are received.

Also the Bureau of Competition Policy in co-operation with the RCMP and provincial police forces will be increasing enforcement activities to see that the laws on the books are appropriately enforced.

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[Translation]

PAY EQUITY

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Quebec): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. On the issue of pay equity, the media recently reported that the Government of Quebec and the Quebec union of provincial employees had come to an agreement. Some \$90 million will be paid in catch-up wages and another \$25 million in pay equalization adjustment in certain employment categories.

In view of the fact that the provincial governments in Quebec and Ontario continue to consider pay equity a key priority, does the minister intend to finally pay female employees of the Federal Public Service the amounts owed them pursuant to a ruling by the Human Rights Tribunal over three years ago?