

An hon. Member: What have they got to hide?

Mr. Woolliams: As reported at page 8343 of *Hansard* of September 23, 1964, I put a question to the then prime minister concerning allegations that there might have been corrupt practices in reference to the administration of the law in the Banks' case. This was the subject of an inquiry by the Norris commission, after several men had been murdered by turning on steam in a furnace. Judge Norris recommended at that time the setting up of a royal commission to investigate syndicated crime. My own plea that a royal commission be set up was refused by the prime minister of the day, the late L. B. Pearson.

On October 13, 1967, as reported at page 3062, of *Hansard*, I again asked for the setting up of a royal commission because of certain facts which had come to light and because ex-commissioner Harvison of the RCMP, contrary to the view taken by the solicitor general, had stated that organized crime was coming into Canada from the United States. The prime minister, Mr. Pearson, said no. He did not think the establishment of a royal commission would solve anything.

Now we come to February 24, 1969. Our party whip from Edmonton Centre asked that a royal commission be set up. In reply, Senator McIlraith, as he is now, said:

I do not believe, and I cannot believe, the premise on which the question is based.

He refused the suggestion that a royal commission be established. When the Solicitor General suggests we only found out about organized crime by watching television, I would draw his attention to these representations on behalf of our party. On January 27, 1969, the right hon. member for Prince Albert dealt with the subject of organized crime and, as reported at page 4837, of *Hansard*, said he would like to see a little action taken. He recommended that a royal commission be set up to look into the question of organized and international crime in co-operation with the provinces. So I do not think we discovered this type of crime by viewing CBC programs. Again, on February 5, 1971, as reported at page 3124 of *Hansard*, my right hon. friend from Prince Albert stated:

In the spirit of reform which has always been a reason for action on his part, I should like the minister to consider the setting up of a royal commission to look fully into the question of the infiltration into Canada of international wrongdoers—

● (1630)

He was referring, of course to Hong Kong. Then, again, the right hon. member for Prince Albert, on November 28, 1973, at page 8247 of *Hansard*, after setting out certain facts and referring to 95 cases involving international crime, immigration and other matters which had come to his attention, asked for a royal commission. Again it was refused. Then on March 7, 1974, the right hon. member for Prince Albert repeated his plea, and again it was refused by the government on flimsy arguments.

When the Solicitor General says that we have only just found out about crime, I would remind him, as did the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt), that the hon.

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member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) moved a motion similar to the motion today on November 12, 1974. The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe talked about his career yesterday. He mentioned that he was the solicitor general of Quebec, minister of justice of Quebec and was a judge who had to have his home guarded because he stood up against the mafia. So we did not find out about crime from the CBC for the very first time. Our position has been a positive one; we have continued to ask for a royal commission.

Again, on October 20, 1975, the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Howie) asked for a royal commission. His request was refused. On January 27, 1976, as reported at page 10357 of *Hansard*, I asked for a royal commission. In light of the program shown on the CBC, the knowledge we have had since 1964, the pressure that has been brought by this side of the House on the government, and the recommendations of Mr. Justice Norris flowing from his inquiry into the SIU which revealed the tremendous depth of organized crime across this nation, I say now is the time to set up that royal commission.

Why do we believe we should have a royal commission? Apart from the facts I have related, let me examine what a royal commission can do which a court cannot do. If you set up a judicial inquiry or a royal commission into organized crime, in the terms of reference provision is made for the subpoenaing of witnesses and documents and the right to cross-examine those who are involved in organized crime.

I am sure that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford) and the Solicitor General will agree with me that one of the most difficult charges to prove under the Criminal Code is the charge of conspiracy. It is always difficult to link facts together so as to secure a conviction either by a judge or a jury. The reason for this is the good principle that an accused never need say anything in his defence; the Crown must always prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt. But with a judicial inquiry there is a different set of rules. Hardened, syndicated criminals who pay to murder, to rob and to corrupt, or their agents, can be brought before a royal commission and interrogated under oath by lawyers for the commission and people from various parts of society who are interested. Their answers are given under oath. You can also document your case and in this regard ask for police assistance in getting the material required. In that way you can find out who is who.

For example, we would never have known that at the recent Montreal world fair the carcasses of six diseased cattle were ground up into hamburger, chewed up with onions and sold at inflated prices, were it not for a judicial inquiry. We can also discover what kind of corruption is taking place under the Immigration Act and what corruption may be going on in the field of drugs.

I am not being political now when I say that I am always amazed when governments in this country take great credit for the number of convictions they obtain. The government is ready to bust a little kid at university for smoking marijuana, but it fails to get the hardened criminals involved in the trafficking of drugs. This is why we need a judicial inquiry, so