

Interim Supply

day that we reserve the right to stop this kind of thing if we cannot do it in the right way.

As to the point made by the Leader of the Opposition, which was repeated by the hon. member who has just spoken, that he drew the conclusion from my statement that we were criticizing United States security agencies because they were doing these things, I must put this on the record again. I am reading from page 3358 of *Hansard*:

We have, therefore, with this purpose in mind, examined our procedures regarding exchange of security information with the United States. I recognize, Mr. Speaker, that nothing we could have done would have prevented the action taken against Mr. Norman by the United States senate sub-committee on security because the information they gave out, covering allegations going back years and dealt with by this government years ago, was secured from other than Canadian sources. Nevertheless, this experience has emphasized that we should now take steps to ensure that information received from us on these matters could not possibly be used for wrong purposes against Canadians in the future.

And then I quoted from the note which we had just sent to the United States government—and I do not know why my hon. friend did not read this paragraph because it concerns the operations of the United States security agency—

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have read every one of them.

Mr. Pearson:—and it certainly disposes of any suspicion that he has attempted to leave in our minds that we have been criticizing these agencies. I now quote from page 3359 of *Hansard*, which contains the text of the short note which we addressed to the United States government some weeks ago, as follows:

The United States government is aware that the appropriate security agencies of the two governments have in the past exchanged security information on a reciprocal basis.

This reciprocal exchange of information has assisted substantially in maintaining the security of our two countries, and the Canadian government is not suggesting that it has been improperly used by the security agencies in the United States with which this exchange takes place.

Surely that disposes of the inferences which have been made by the hon. gentleman.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Read the next paragraph.

Mr. Pearson: Very well.

Nevertheless the Canadian government must take every precaution which lies within its power to protect Canadian citizens from the danger of this information falling into the hands of persons who might use it without any sense of responsibility or fairness, or regard for the rights of Canadian citizens, within the jurisdiction of Canada. In view of the conduct of congressional investigations affecting Canadians, and because of its responsibility for taking every precaution in its power to protect

[Mr. Pearson.]

Canadian citizens, the Canadian government requests that, in the reciprocal exchange of security information, the United States government give its assurance that none of its agencies or departments will pass such information to any committee, body or organization in the United States over which the executive branch of the United States government has no executive control, without the express consent of the Canadian government in each case.

Does that satisfy the hon. gentleman?

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is what I was going to read, because it is the very antithesis of what you say.

Mr. Jones: Mr. Chairman, I would be very pleased if I could say a few words in support of the hon. member for Dauphin who spoke yesterday on behalf of the retail merchants of Canada. I feel that he spoke on behalf of a group which has been sadly neglected in recent years, a group which is very important, not only in the community life of Canada but in the community life of most of the European countries as well. For centuries this group has made devoted efforts toward the development of the country to which it belongs. Napoleon referred to the English at one time as a nation of shopkeepers, little realizing that those same shopkeepers were capable of taking up arms and bringing him to his knees at Waterloo.

In Canada shopkeepers have been pioneers in our communities; they have laid the foundation of every town and city in Canada; it was their unstinted service and money which helped to plan the future of this country, and I well remember times of distress when the small retailers became not only merchants but philanthropists, giving credit to all who needed their services. Many merchants became bankrupt in the process because of their generosity, and we have to thank our small merchants in Canada for the help they gave to farm workers and others during the most trying period of economic difficulty.

In every town in Canada hon. members will find evidence of the pioneering spirit of this group. Often its members serve on city councils and help to build up public institutions—fire halls, arenas and other types of building. There are countless instances of good work done by the retail merchants of Canada. Unfortunately these very people are now facing difficulties which are not of their own creation, difficulties which may lead to their total extinction as merchants in Canada. As I say, through a condition which is no fault of theirs, they are at the mercy of large corporate retailers. I, in common with other hon. members, have received a letter from the