

Committee on Defence Expenditure

Mr. Drew: The statement of the Prime Minister is perfectly clear that he knew Sergeant Young was in penitentiary and that in making his statement he did not wait until he got that statement to tell the house what he thought about the horses.

Mr. Rowe: And Mr. Currie.

Mr. Drew: The fact is that what has happened is that the jockeys are in jail but the horses are still loose.

Mr. Garson: That is statesmanlike.

Mr. Drew: This may have appealed to many people because of its absurdity but it is the kind of thing which brings into sharp focus the nature of the irregularities which were occurring.

Mr. Garson: Typical tactics of the opposition—Hong Kong, Bren gun, North Star.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) is so interested in these proceedings, I should like to deal with certain activities of the government for which I assume he has accepted responsibility. A great deal has been said about the theft of a document. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police were used to conduct an inquiry. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police were directed to conduct an inquiry into what? Into anything affected by any federal law? No. The Minister of Justice makes that quite clear now. They conducted an inquiry and as a result the Minister of Justice has now advised that if anything is to follow it must be at the instance of Mr. Currie or the printing firm from which, according to him, this paper was removed.

Mr. Garson: I wonder if my hon. friend would identify the statement or material upon which he bases the last remark he has made.

Mr. Drew: Oh, Mr. Speaker, the *Hansard* record is adequate and I leave it at that.

Mr. Garson: Quote it then.

Mr. Rowe: He has been quoting it all afternoon to your shame.

Mr. Garson: If it is in *Hansard* and he is depending upon it, let him quote it.

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew) is not required to answer questions. It is a matter entirely within his discretion.

Mr. Garson: On a question of privilege, I say that my hon. friend's statement is without foundation, and if he has the evidence he will cite it.

Mr. Drew: The authority for it is the long and evasive speech made in the house by the Minister of Justice on this very subject.

[Mr. St. Laurent.]

Furthermore, there is the letter of the Minister of Justice to the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Claxton) which was placed on record, and so far as I know was a letter that actually did pass.

Mr. Rowe: Think that one over now.

Mr. Drew: I assume the minister signed that. Let us get this thing in perspective.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Drew: Let us get this in perspective so that those who obviously have been diverted from the real issue may bring their attention back to what is before us.

Mr. Garson: You are the person who has been doing the diverting.

Mr. Rowe: Your applause did not settle anything. Go ahead.

Mr. Drew: We have heard a great deal about the use of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. We have heard the astonishing statement by the Minister of Justice that if it is appropriate for individuals to use private detectives it is quite proper for the government to use that great force for activities of this kind.

An hon. Member: Right.

Mr. Drew: The minister says "right".

Mr. Garson: No, no.

Mr. Rowe: Some other member of the government.

Mr. Drew: Another member of the government—

Mr. Fournier (Hull): No, no, not of the government.

Mr. Drew: Then, Mr. Speaker, what has just occurred indicates the desirability of those who have intelligent remarks to make getting on their feet to make them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Mr. Drew: Mr. Speaker, the ribald laughter of members who support the government for one reason or another—

Mr. Garson: They have great justification.

Mr. Rowe: I would not laugh if I were on your side.

Mr. Drew: —indicates the attitude of the supporters of the government in regard to the serious situation disclosed in this report. I hope that right across Canada the people of this country will know that, while we are discussing the administration of a department that takes over \$2 billion of their money from their pockets by taxation, supporters of