

*Government Organization*

R.C.M.P. from the Minister of Justice, who he said would always be the Attorney General of Canada and always be responsible for the administration of law, and would always be the chief legal officer, to the Solicitor General. I ask you a simple question. How can the Minister of Justice perform his functions with the R.C.M.P. under the jurisdiction of another department? The only way you can have a successful Department of Justice is to have the complete co-ordination and working together of all groups. Now we have the R.C.M.P. under the Solicitor General.

**Mr. Bigg:** Maybe they asked to go.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Perhaps they asked to go, I do not know. Recently the image of the R.C.M.P. has reached a new low. Why has it reached a new low? The commissioner of the R.C.M.P., who had nothing to gain, because he had reached the highest post as a police officer in this country, gave evidence at a certain commission hearing and gave it fearlessly. I suggest he gave the evidence honestly because he was one man who had nothing to gain or lose by telling the truth.

• (8:30 p.m.)

Then along comes the man who is the head man in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister of Canada, and completely contradicts the commissioner of the R.C.M.P. on some of the evidence given to that commission. I am not going to discuss anything but the contradiction itself. We have not heard from the commissioner, he has been silent. We had a new version from the Prime Minister of what he had said. Somebody might suggest he is again suffering from selective amnesia. However, it is not for me to suggest that. When the Prime Minister, the leading officer of this House of Commons, the head of the government, takes the commissioner of the R.C.M.P. and throws him into the ash can, then you have taken a police force which was built on tradition and trust and reduced their image to a very low point. It is high time the members of this government stood up for the R.C.M.P. instead of criticizing them. I know the Solicitor General will do this; I have trust in his integrity. When hon. members criticize in this house, they should check to ascertain the facts. I believe the reason responsibility for the R.C.M.P. was given to the Solicitor General was that the man the Prime Minister had chosen to be Minister of Justice could not have worked with the R.C.M.P. Yet he is still holding that post.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

**Mr. Régimbal:** He will be resigning soon.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Someone says he will resign soon, but that is up to him.

I think the placing of the National Parole Board and the Canadian Penitentiaries Service under the jurisdiction of the Solicitor General is a good idea. Men like George Street, who is head of the National Parole Board, has done a tremendous job. The board has administered paroles according to law to the best of their ability, and done an excellent job not only under the former government but also under this one. I believe that this is one job of which the Minister of Justice could be relieved, because political problems arise to which the parole board chairman is always subject. For example, everybody is subject to human behaviour. A thousand men may be paroled, one of whom goes wrong; yet he is the one the whole country hears about.

The same can be said of the administration of justice in the courts. One hundred cases may be properly administered, yet one which looks a little difficult or is not quite in order is the one which is publicized. The National Parole Board of this country is doing a tremendous job, and I am glad it is coming within the purview of the Solicitor General. I have the feeling that there will be no political interference as long as its administration comes under his department. I could not say the same if it remained where it was.

With regard to the Canadian Penitentiaries Service, I have attended some of the meetings the Solicitor General has attended, and I believe it is a good idea to transfer it to his department. Also we might bring about some reform of our penitentiaries.

One question I have raised over and over again, and which I will repeat, concerns juvenile offenders who are incarcerated in our penitentiaries. Our penitentiaries need reforming; they are outdated and are archaic. They have been dealing with the punitive aspects rather than the rehabilitative aspects, which makes the job of the parole board even more difficult.

However, when we come to look at the new Department of Justice, we find it is being carved up. The combines investigation branch, the litigation branch and the other branches of the department have been split up, which means there will be no co-ordination and that the law will not be properly administered. I see ahead of us something which may also occur in other departments,