

Supply—Justice

I would have to deal with some of the criticism of those of us who have responsibilities regarding certain of the procedures that took place.

• (5:00 p.m.)

I am not now dealing with procedures in the detection of wrongdoing. One of the things which has to be examined is the whole matter of wire-tapping, telephone tapping, if this is taking place. I read in the papers that the R.C.M.P. had a secret camera ensconced in some of the lights, and brought about pictures I have never heard of before. I do say this: if that kind of thing is going on, it needs to be looked into and carefully expunged.

Mr. Cardin: What year was that?

Mr. Diefenbaker: What does the hon. gentleman say now, by insinuation?

Mr. Cardin: When was that?

Mr. Diefenbaker: Well, the minister is the man who dropped the insinuation and began the cowardly attack he made. Now, he has to run. Never in the years I have been in the House of Commons have I seen ministers placed in such positions as they are placed in today since the complete turnabout on the part of the Prime Minister. I welcome what has been achieved. We fought for it. We were condemned. They thought by intimidation we could be kept quiet.

Mr. Cardin: Just explain the case.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Explain? I say to the Minister of Justice that all his explaining went out with the refuse today. There he stands, naked and unashamed, deprived of every argument he brought before this house. He said: "This is the position I will take, and no other." But the force of public opinion, the force of right, has brought about on the part of the Prime Minister the decision to take another course.

Last evening I heard Spencer. The Prime Minister said the government was not consulted in any way. I do not want to prejudice any case which might be taken against Spencer. But the mounted police, with the surveillance they placed over him, denied the hon. member for Vancouver East an opportunity to see this man.

Mr. Pearson: They did not.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is what he says, and he is the one who knows. The Prime Minister does not know. The hon. member does. He tried for hours without success. Suddenly this
[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

person who has been out of circulation for three months finds himself persona grata on the television screens of our country.

I add this: reformation, however late, is always welcome. The Minister of Justice said: "I am right. I know I am right. Nothing is going to change." Now it is changed. He was in this fight for ten days supporting the Prime Minister. Now, the Prime Minister in effect says: "Goodbye, Minister of Justice. Your views do not in any way bind me and as far as I am concerned we are going ahead with the necessary action."

It has been an incredible performance all the way along. I will always find it one of those rather unbelievable things—the Prime Minister on the telephone talking to the spy.

Mr. Pearson: He is a spy, now, is he?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I never will understand that. I can only say I am glad to see that the power of argument is not lost in this chamber, that public opinion cannot be ostracized in this chamber. The government has antennae, and even if these do not work for a long while, these enable it to understand—after matters have been brought home, as this has been brought home. The government got the message that the people want the protection and preservation of their security. At the same time they want the maintenance of that degree of freedom which, while not denying security, will not prostitute the rights of citizens.

It is a difficult balance to achieve. To the Prime Minister, I say: I am glad that you saw the error of your ways so definitely and that you were not convinced either by the arguments advanced by the Minister of Justice or by other ministers who spoke. Security is one thing which haunts the hours of a Prime Minister. The problem is before him at all times. I had but one principle when I occupied that position. It was this: there shall be no consideration given to anyone who would undermine the security of the state. That course, I followed. That course was the one which all of us, I believe, in the tradition of our parliamentary life, must follow. All I can say to those opposite who threatened is this, when blackmail failed, the government altered its position.

Mr. Lewis: I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that what the Prime Minister dealt with today were precisely the things which members on this side of the house have been asking about for some weeks. My