

heard reflections in the debate on the Criminal Code on the powers given to justices of the peace and the powers given to judges to ban publication. We have heard nothing of those things, Mr. Speaker, although there may be someone to follow my contribution who will incorporate some such remarks into his speech. But so far we have heard none of those arguments.

I think it is true to say—and I hope not trite—that the party which gains the majority of the seats in an election is the party chosen to form a government. Upon it is thrust a great deal of responsibility to carry out the affairs of the country within the context of the laws by which we are all governed. I guess there is some degree of trust by the people of this country in those who are elected and then subsequently appointed to the ministry. I suppose we all share some degree of trust that in this democratic society those responsibilities will be carried out in a proper way and that our trust will be in the good hands of those who become members of the cabinet. Upon those people who are in charge of leading this country, in the context of their daily work, comes a good deal of information. Some of it is very sensitive and some of it is necessarily secret, and it is incumbent upon them to guard that information so that it may be used in the best interest of us all in this country.

**An hon. Member:** You are not in favour of freedom of information?

**Mr. Young:** I am not saying I am not in favour of freedom of information. I am saying that there is a trust placed in members of cabinet. They have to accept it and exercise their responsibilities diligently. There are some secrets which must be guarded and I know it must become very difficult. I am not saying that the hon. member for Peace River has no point whatever to make. I am not saying he is not a conscientious member or that he has not put forward a point or philosophy which bears examination and good, solid debate. I welcome these things because I share the concern which he has expressed in this House, that of an upstanding, honest member of parliament. That is fair game, fair comment in debate in this place.

Upon members on this side, particularly those in the cabinet, is thrust the responsibility of a difficult job to do. I am sure that the burden of some of the information which comes their way is not always welcomed on their shoulders. But they have that job to carry out and they must guard it carefully. That is a crunch decision to make. There has to be a way of doing it carefully. There is a necessity to carry it out, although at times it may be difficult. In my opinion that trust has been carried out admirably by people on this side, fairly and in a proper manner.

I do not wish to overstep the kindness and courtesy hon. members have allowed me in granting a few extra minutes to conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, and I will therefore break off at this point. There are a few more points I would have liked to make but I will conclude at this time because I understand the hon. member for Peace River wished to ask me a question.

*Official Secrets Act*

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I pass the baton on to my hon. friend from Saskatoon-Biggar.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The old winder-upper!

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) pointed out, it seems to be my place to try to bring many debates in this House at least close to conclusion. I spend less time in this chamber, I am sure, than the hon. member but I seem to spend an inordinate amount of time catching up and trying to bring into perspective some of the comments which have been made and some of the deliberations which have gone on.

I wish first to commend and compliment my seatmate, the distinguished member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), for bringing to the attention of the House, through his motion today, a matter which I think is of utmost importance at this particular time. It is one which has caused people who give serious consideration to civil liberties in our country to feel great concern.

● (1642)

Notwithstanding some of the comments we have heard, which I take to represent official government attitude, I would not want to suggest that the parliamentary secretary, on the basis of the remarks he made, would be awarded the civil libertarian of the year award in this country or any other jurisdiction at least as far as I can make out.

There is a place for civil liberties in this country. I know the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau) may not agree with that view. In fact he may hold a contrary view. However, notwithstanding some of the activities of this administration, there is still room for civil liberties in this country. If he wants to take the contrary position, maybe the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. Francis) will yield his place and allow him to pursue that so that we can understand his position.

**Mr. Breau:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It is a little unfair for the hon. member to suggest that I am against civil liberties because of an interjection that I made.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. The hon. member might have a private point or a point of debate, but it is certainly not a point of order.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Maybe that will teach the hon. member not to interject as he does. He is renowned for his capacity to speak from the seat of his pants.

There are other points that have to be made. It is not as though the hon. member for Peace River is making an isolated plea on the basis of the motion he has presented today. I was surprised that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Young) quoted from Geoffrey Stevens as being the basis of absolute truth and perception in all things. We in the opposition understand as well as anyone that his perception with regard to the Gallup poll results last week sometimes