

Protection of Privacy

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that I find it very unfortunate that the hon. member for Lévis, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice,—of course he is just a parliamentary secretary and as you know, it is not the cowl that makes the monk— had the guts to rise in this House and say certain things. I quote, Mr. Speaker, from page 8193 of *Hansard* of November 27, 1973. The hon. member for Lévis says so many things! I quote:

I can well remember the time when he was minister of justice—

Because, obviously, he speaks about the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe.

—in Quebec. I am not asking him to answer for his mandate. What did he do to improve the legislation within his department? What did he do in the field of law or penal reform? This is what I am asking him.

The man asking me those questions is the one who in 1970, at the time of the Liberal party leadership convention in Quebec, travelled through various areas with me praising the Minister of Justice and saying how he could administer the province of Quebec and ensure social peace, how right he was in his interpretation of the Constitution of Canada when my opponent simply wanted to lie flat before the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). It is that very same member who asks today where is your record? As he will recall, the record started with the creation of a Department of Justice that did not exist in the province of Quebec. Then there was a judicial reform not only through action but through legislation and internal administration, the creation of a Justice Advisory Board in the province of Quebec, the creation of welfare courts in all ridings of the province, when there were just a few, the extension of legal aid all over the province. Finally and particularly there was the creation across the province of not only a better spirit and belief in a justice equal for all, but also the launching of an active fight against crime and not only inquiries that are witch hunts like those going on now in the province of Quebec. That is what the then Quebec Minister of Justice did.

But Mr. Speaker, the important thing is—

Mr. Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Lévis is rising on a question of privilege.

Mr. Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner) involved me quite directly by saying that I had supported him at the leadership convention in 1970. I fully agree with him, but I want to point out that I supported him because he was talking about law and order in the province of Quebec. He is the one who has changed his mind. He is the turncoat, not me.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I apologize to the hon. member of Saint-Hyacinthe who has the floor.

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, respect for law and order is never an end in itself in a society. Law and order are a condition without which a given society cannot flourish. But those who would have law and order as an ideal, an end, a goal to achieve through any means, any compromise, those people err. In the province of Quebec, at least from 1964 to 1966, the law was respected, and all were

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equal before the law, to such an extent that, at one point, when two Liberal members sitting by my side in the legislature were found guilty of having accepted bribes, they were brought before courts, like any other citizen, because justice was the same for all. That is something to be proved by actions, not by speeches.

Today, Mr. Speaker, what is going on in Quebec? That is the very reason for the bill. Barely a few hours ago, the Quebec Bar Association, and I am proud of its action, published a news release which reads as follows:

... the Quebec Bar Association seriously censures the Quebec Minister of Justice, Mr. Choquette, for having approved the illegal actions of policemen who installed wiretaps in lawyers' offices in Montreal.

Permit me a digression. The hon. member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Morin) was saying a while back that the police was not involved in what happened in the lawyers' offices. On the other hand, Mr. Choquette said that it was indeed the work of the police. The press release continues:

The Bar finds it aberrant and inadmissible that the Quebec Minister of Justice would care so little for basic democratic principles, such as professional secrecy and the inviolability of offices and private residences.

The Bar is extremely worried about the invasion of privacy suggested by the minister's attitude and considers that, with the authorization of the Minister of Justice, the offices of judges, politicians and senior government officials can now be wiretapped, which is a direct menace to the relations between citizens and these professionals, that were usually protected by the seal of secrecy.

Mr. Speaker, I would rather be in the company of the official opposition, of hon. members from other parties and of members of the Montreal Bar than in the company of the hon. members for Louis-Hébert and for Lévis.

It is unfortunate that now, when we discuss this problem, we see in the province of Quebec that wiretapping applies first of course to the Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste on the pretext that it is a hazard to national security. This has been done for six months. It is then applied to lawyers and it will soon be applied to judges or notaries, real estate brokers, federal politicians, on the pretext that government security is endangered.

Mr. Speaker, I intend to endanger the security of those who administer the government, of those who fail to do what the people want, who do not give them the great social justice, who cannot find the solutions to unemployment, to the rise in the cost of living—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I hope that the hon. member will now come to the motion before the House, namely the motion moved by the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) and to the amendment. I think the hon. member is straying a little from the subject.

Mr. Wagner: You are quite right, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

● (1550)

Mr. Muir: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Very rarely do I have occasion to disagree with anything Your Honour might say, but if the hon. member for Louis-Hébert (Mrs. Morin) can spend most of her time castigating individuals in the House on certain matters, surely the hon. member who is now speaking should have an oppor-