

Morality in Government

● (5:30 p.m.)

Is that security? He knew what the evidence was, and again I paraphrase that evidence. On January 19, 1961, the R.C.M.P. report was that it was becoming very apparent that this woman was not engaged in any intelligence operations and therefore was of no further interest to the branch and no further watch would be maintained.

The Prime Minister dug it up. He has the responsibility, no one else. He was assisted by those who for their own purposes would destroy. Now on May 3, 1966, when I want to produce what was said, the Liberals raise an unholy noise against it. They object. They are afraid of it.

Mr. Greene: Would the hon. gentleman permit a question?

Mr. Diefenbaker: No. At the moment I do not want any observations from Lincoln or his re-incarnation.

With all the power at my command I ask, can parliament condone this? If we can, then McCarthyism is in this land. It is worse than McCarthyism at its peak. McCarthy simply said, "You are guilty by association," and destroyed the souls of men. I wonder how many hon. members in this house would want to go back over the years and recall whether at one time or another they did not think a little differently than they do today.

I have had files before me—not from any source whatever, but knowing of them. There has been the evidence in Washington before the security committee of the United States Senate. But no, that is not the way we act in public life. Are the private lives of individuals to be dug up? Are we to start looking up the moral wrongdoing at any time of each and every one of us? Are we to start on that? That is what this thing will lead to. Who of us is without sin? Who of us can judge without being judged?

Mr. Pickersgill: May I ask the right hon. gentleman a question.

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I do not want to judge the hon. gentleman. The hon. gentleman tried to be a lawyer and he did not succeed, so he does not know anything about being a judge.

This is the danger of this thing. This is what parliament is going to vote on tonight, not on the self-serving views of the Prime Minister designed to place before parliament

a view that is the very antithesis of the evidence that was given. The Prime Minister laughs. He said that this is really nothing, but they are just taking reputations and destroying them. He could have got up to day and excused himself by saying, "We all do things sometimes when we get annoyed," but he did not do so.

The file lay around for 15 months. You can just see them there looking at it and asking, "When do we strike?"

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Oh yes, that is the way they operated. The Prime Minister laughs. I ask him, why did you keep it for 15 months? For decoration? He kept it there, according to the evidence of the commissioner, and returned the file after 15 months.

Mr. Starr: Because they requested it.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I suppose they asked for it back. What were you doing with it in that time? We heard about it. It went from ear to ear—"We have got something; you wait, if you are not careful we will get you." You cannot build a parliament that way. That is why this motion is so important.

I am asking for the support tonight of all political parties in this house because, as we are now, unless you condemn this action, so will you be. There is no safety for any person or group. Each one of us, admitting the frailties of human nature, knows that if anybody were to dig into our records there would be something to find. That is why I say to those in all political parties that this is a principle above all else transcendent. Give me the resolution.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: They laugh over there. The hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Stewart) jeers when I ask for the resolution. Is this the new politics that would destroy? I have a high regard for the hon. gentleman but jeering of that kind does not add to it.

Mr. Stewart: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker, my amusement was not prompted by the right hon. gentleman's aside to his seat-mate. It was prompted by a remark made by the hon. gentleman who sits directly behind me, which I found very amusing.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am sorry. I hasten at once to say to the hon. gentleman that I am