

Acts of Espionage

it was only after he was under some suspicion and was likely to get caught that he turned state's evidence. If it is the former, and he co-operated with them from the beginning, then I want to know what he did with the thousands of dollars he was paid over a period of time.

An hon. Member: It was for travelling expenses.

Mr. Douglas: If it was all for travelling expenses, then I am perfectly satisfied. But I go on with the release, Mr. Speaker, which says that he was also paid "to compromise other Canadians, including female employees of the Government, with the object of securing their assistance in obtaining access to classified information". Then in the press story it is said:

An informed Government source said it is reasonable to assume that seduction was one method used to compromise the female employees.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Douglas: It is indicated, Mr. Speaker, that the expense account might be an interesting document to peruse.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Douglas: But in all seriousness, it would surely not be a pretty picture if the R.C.M.P. were using as an agent a man who was seeking to compromise female employees of the Canadian Government. That is something I hope the Prime Minister will look into.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Only a theologian would suggest that.

Mr. Douglas: There are two other points on which I hope we get some clarification, Mr. Speaker. One is the extent to which the Minister of Justice and the Prime Minister were kept fully informed of this case from the beginning—the Minister of Justice to whom the R.C.M.P. is responsible, and the Prime Minister as the head of the Government. I should like clarification on whether they have known about this case from the beginning or whether it only came to their attention lately. It seems to me that on matters as important as this, if the R.C.M.P. knew that a naturalized Canadian citizen had been approached to gather information for the Government of another country and had agreed to act as an undercover agent for the R.C.M.P., that information should have been transmitted immediately to the Minis-

[Mr. Douglas.]

ter of Justice, and by him to the Prime Minister. I think we ought to know to what extent both these Ministers were kept fully informed regarding the arrangements which the R.C.M.P. were making, and to what extent those arrangements were proper and befitting the Government and the administration of justice in this country.

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I think the most interesting aspect of this case that is before us at the present time, apart from the fact that two members of the diplomatic staff of the U.S.S.R. in Canada have been engaged in espionage activities, is the very poor handling of this matter, first of all by the Department of External Affairs and second by the Prime Minister himself. On his own admission, Mr. Speaker, the information that was given out in the original release from the Department of External Affairs gave much reason for question as far as the public was concerned regarding just what had been going on. Certainly the answers relating to this subject that were given yesterday during the question period were not very wisely phrased, either, because the information certainly left a good deal of question in regard to just what was happening, and also as a result the lengthy statement the Prime Minister has given us today. It is apparent that he was not informed about this case prior to its being announced; otherwise this information would not have been bungled as it was in releasing it to the public.

It seems to me strange that the right hon. Prime Minister has emphasized today that the second person who did not report this originally to our own security people was a junior civil servant. Do senior and junior civil servants have more and less responsibility to the Government and to the nation? Does a civil servant, whether he be senior or junior, have less responsibility than an ordinary citizen? Certainly I do not think the fact that he is a junior civil servant has anything to do with the case at all.

Another thing that is significant in the information given us today is the mention by the Prime Minister that this information which was given to the espionage agents of the U.S.S.R. was information not related to his Department. What is the difference whether information being relayed related to his Department or not, if it had something to do with the security of this country? The information that has been given here today does not satisfy the mind of the public, and certainly does not satisfy my mind, as to