Supply—Justice

Mr. Peters: The minister wanted to know when this information became available to me. In 1947 or 1948 attended I Carleton college. At that time there was some question about the student group at Carleton making inquiries to join a student organization which I previously had known to be communist dominated coming out of a university in Montreal. Also there was a chap at college at the time who was known, certainly to one or two other members of the house here, or considered to be communist and who headed up the L.P.P. at the time. He produced the request in a meeting in which we were asked as students to join this organization. At that time I objected to joining the organization. I objected to joining the organization because I understood it was a front organization. One of the members here may remember this occasion as I believe he was there at the time.

The meeting finally broke up with the suggestion that I approach the R.C.M.P. and find out whether this was a communist front organization or whether it was not. Because of this, I went to the headquarters of the R.C.M.P. and asked the man at the desk whether that organization was a communist front organization. He immediately showed me in to see an officer who immediately, after I put the question, showed me in to the officer in charge and in about four jumps I was in Commissioner Wood's office. He at that time discussed the matter with me. He asked me a number of questions about it, why I assumed it was, and a number of other questions. Then he turned to a corporal and he said, "Would you go in and see if we have anything on this particular gentleman and also see if you have anything on Peters?" When he came back with the communist file it was a small thin one. When he came back with the one that was mine, it was quite a big one and he pointed out some of the things that were in this particular file at the time.

Mr. Howard: I should like to make one brief inquiry not on this particular theme that has been the subject of discussion here. I wonder whether the minister could tell us how many members of the force there are who are assigned to what I would classify as the narcotics detail or the one that deals specifically with tracing or looking after the flood of narcotics into the country and the apprehension of the people who are either in possession of or are trafficking in narcotics.

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Chairman, I think it will take a minute or two to get that information. I wonder whether I could answer the question under item 364. I hope to have the information by that time. That is under land,

air and training division, operation and maintenance. I shall try to have the information by the time that item is reached.

Mr. Howard: I should like to pursue the matter a bit beyond the actual statistical figure. Would I be able to discuss narcotics under item 364?

Mr. Fulton: Yes because it is under land and air operations that the narcotics squads of the C.I.B. operate.

Item agreed to.

Land, air and training divisions— 364. Operation and maintenance, \$35,227,872.

Mr. Fulton: I have not the information yet. The reason we are a little bit slow in getting it is that the narcotic squad are parts of the criminal investigation branch and the general breakdown is C.I.B. in each division and subdivision but they are not broken down by narcotic squads. We would therefore have to isolate the men in the narcotic squad in each division. We are working on that now. Perhaps my hon. friend would like to make his general remarks and I will see whether I can get him the details.

Mr. Howard: Generally my remarks relate primarily to the question of where have we discovered that narcotics come from. From what country do they enter Canada or from what ports of entry is the concentration of the inflow of narcotics. What countries do they originate in generally speaking? Is there any close liaison between the narcotics division or branches in other countries of the world, specifically the United States because of its proximity or countries in which narcotics originate, in order to keep in touch at the international level with the channeling or distribution of narcotics from one country to another? Generally, how effective is this sort of watch?

Apparently with the continued increase in the number of people who are addicted or are becoming addicted to narcotics, it would seem to me that inasmuch as we do notand this is only a belief of mine-grow and produce narcotics here in Canada—somebody may grow in his backyard a row of poppies but beyond that I do not think that Canada itself produces any narcotics-just how effective, if there is such a thing, is this international liaison with other countries. Do we exchange information with other countries, say particularly the United States because of its proximity and because of the easy manner in which people travel from one country to another? Do we exchange information with the United States narcotics officials about known addicts and traffickers here in Canada and do we receive from the

[Mr. Winch.]