

*Supply—Justice*

The hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), whom I have heard speak in the house and whose speeches I have reread in *Hansard*, has developed a habit of making insinuations. They are probably well-founded—I do not know—but he is adopting the attitude of a citizen who is not trying to help the Department of Justice. If he knows the facts, the crimes, the criminals, let him expose them, and I shall be the first to support his charges. For instance, as reported on page 1814 of the official report, the hon. member for Yukon stated:

Does the minister sit there and endeavour to suggest to me that the murder of Payette is not linked with fraudulent bankruptcies?

Mr. Chairman, is this not a far-reaching innuendo? He further said:

I will deal with that matter when the minister has answered the questions that I have placed on the order paper.

The hon. member has put questions on the order paper which have not yet been answered. Those questions should be answered without delay, but since he has not yet obtained answers, I feel he is ill-advised to throw out, in the face of the Canadian people and of members of this house, innuendoes which reflect on the representatives of the people.

In view of previous events, among others, the Dorion report, the hon. member and other members were fully justified in demanding from the government an inquiry into this matter. The report not only indicated irregularities but implicated certain people. But today, if we are justified in asking and demanding an inquiry from the government and if the Minister of Justice does not seem to have such detailed information as some hon. members, I believe it is the duty of each of us to help justice and not hinder it, and to table the misdeeds some people are or would be accused of.

On the other hand, the minister should make up his mind to discharge his high responsibilities with firmness and dispatch. It is up to him to make the decisions and not always rely on civil servants. I hold the Minister of Justice in high esteem. To me, he is a most sympathetic member. But the minister seems prone to abstain from taking any initiative.

Some time ago, while asking a question in this house, I proposed the establishment of a constitutional court. The minister answered and commented on my question. Hon. members can read in this session's *Hansard* his state-

[Mr. Allard.]

ment to the effect that his officials have not decided yet on the advisability of convening the attorneys general of the various provinces to settle the matter. I suggest that this is not the democratic way of doing things. If it is not up to the people's representatives to decide but to civil servants or to bureaucracy, I feel we are heading for trouble.

I would ask the minister to take the initiative and give instructions to his officials in all matters concerning his department, and I know he can do it.

I support hon. members who requested an investigation on organized crime. In view of various happenings, and of all the insinuations we hear on all sides, the Canadian people have lost confidence in the administration of justice in this country. I am talking in particular about the average Canadian, about all our friends in each of our ridings, the people we know, the labourers, the farmers, and the white-collar worker who make up the majority of the people. In view of what has happened, in view of the insinuations which are increasing, people are worried. I say it frankly and without any political partisanship because, if there is a department where political partisanship must not exist, where political controversies must not be encouraged, it is the Department of Justice. We must go about it without prejudice, objectively.

I ask the minister to agree to the setting up of a national investigation on organized crime, something which was done in many countries. In the United States at the time of Kefauver, a very useful investigation informed not only the government but also the American people. In view of certain events, the government must agree to a national investigation. It must be made throughout the country. On the other hand, in view of the responsibilities entrusted to us as legislators, since we must pass the laws, I feel that the sittings should be held here in Parliament to enable us to question the witnesses which would be called.

• (7:10 p.m.)

I think the Canadian people would be in favour of such an initiative and that the government would have nothing to lose. On the contrary, it would increase in the minds of the people the importance and value of the Department of Justice. Numerous reports have informed us that crime has considerably increased in our country.