

*Administration of Justice*

house by the Minister of Justice some eight days later.

I was invited to convey this information to my leader, the Leader of the Opposition. I did not do so for eight days, and I did not do so as a result of a deliberate decision, a decision that I would not be a purveyor of threats of that kind.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Fulton:** I did not mention the matter to the Leader of the Opposition, until the morning of Friday, March 4. I told him then that because of the course the debate on the Spencer case was taking, and because of the mention of myself, in the position I had formerly occupied, I felt that I, too, must enter into the debate, that there were certain things that should be said. I told him then that I felt if the debate was to continue there was a possibility that the Munsinger case would be mentioned. But I also said that I felt the Spencer debate should continue; and if it did, we had nothing to be ashamed of.

The Leader of the Opposition agreed with me. The debate continued. The case was mentioned. After the case had been mentioned I then identified to the Leader of the Opposition personally the cabinet minister who had uttered the threat.

Now, sir, on that basis and on the basis of the fact that even after that, when the Spencer case was disposed of on the basis that it would be referred to a judicial commission of inquiry as we had been asking, one would have thought that matters would resume an even keel. We all thought and we all hoped that the atmosphere would be such that this parliament could carry out the business which it has met here to accomplish.

Instead of that, on Thursday or Wednesday of last week—

**An hon. Member:** Thursday.

**Mr. Fulton:**—the Minister of Justice resurrected the whole matter and went far beyond that situation by giving a press conference. The press conference was on Thursday of last week. Sir, press conferences do not take place by accident. They are arranged. There is some suggestion that the Prime Minister did not know about it and was astounded and appalled, but he has adopted it. He has adopted it and is backing up the tactics of his Minister of Justice, tactics which are bringing this parliament to the verge of ruin. And what is more important, sir, the Prime Minister in

[Mr. Fulton.]

fact brought the matter to the level of partisan politics and issued a challenge to the opposition, as reported in *Hansard*, page 2547, to make the matter of the Munsinger case and the government's handling of this situation the subject matter of a vote of non-confidence on the supply motion that was to have come in today. The Prime Minister therefore has so far adopted and approved of everything that has been done in this connection on that side that he has invited us to make it the subject of a motion of non-confidence.

Sir, I am not going to attempt any prediction of what will be the outcome of that challenge, or of the supply motion when it comes. I think, however, I can properly say, as the Leader of the Opposition said and as I have said also in connection with the threat of exposure, the so-called threat of exposure, that this party does not succumb to threats of blackmail of that kind.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Fulton:** We are not going to be trapped or forced or pushed in any way into any improper course by the threat the Prime Minister held out when he spoke of making this the subject matter of a vote of non-confidence. We are going to follow a course, a responsible course, of declining the temptation to reply in the same tactics. We are going to follow the responsible course of doing everything we can, faced though we are with a government whose tactics have deprived it of the respect of the members of the house, to make parliament work.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Fulton:** Now, sir, what are the allegations that have been made. I have not seen the proposed terms of reference for the judicial inquiry into the Munsinger case. I do not know whether they will be satisfactory or not, if a judicial inquiry is to be set up at all. However, the fact of the matter is that allegations have been made and discussed in this house. In my view it is doubtful if the damage can be repaired simply by referring the matter to a judicial inquiry.

The Minister of Justice has alleged a breach of security in connection with the Munsinger case, a case in which I was involved, a case handled by the government of which I had the honour to be a member, and he has alleged breach of security in such a way as to place all former members of that government under suspicion, and to place myself as former minister of justice in a