

RCMP Informants

Newfoundland and British Columbia a juvenile is under the age of 17, and in Manitoba, Quebec and Alberta—Alberta for girls only—a juvenile is under the age of 18.

Hon. members also know that the Young Offenders Bill, which is now in a committee of this House, enables the provinces to establish the juvenile age either at under 17 or under 18.

I have already explained that prior to August 24, 1971, it was general practice within RCMP operations for juveniles to be paid on a casual basis but juveniles were not carried on a payroll. Effective August 24, 1971, even this practice of paying juveniles for information has ceased entirely.

I will now reply to the serious allegations made by Mr. Robert W. Eadie, Jr., formerly of Cornwall, Ontario, on a television broadcast on September 8, 1971. I find it distasteful to have to do so, and I am sure members of the House and the Canadian public will also find it distasteful. On the other hand, since serious accusations have been made which hurt the reputation of some members of the RCMP and the reputation of the force itself, I consider that I have no choice and that it is my duty to reply to these accusations.

May I make it clear to hon. members that I have decided to reveal all the facts as shown in police records which deal with the accusations of Mr. Eadie, Jr. Certain details such as the exact dates of payments to Mr. Eadie, the amount of each payment and the various criminal cases involved will not be revealed so as not to jeopardize his position. It is of course, not the normal practice to reveal such information. RCMP policy is to protect sources of information, the individuals involved and their families. It is because Mr. Eadie, Jr. himself decided to reveal publicly the alleged circumstances of his becoming a police informant and to make serious accusations about the conduct of RCMP officers that I have decided with great regret to reply to his accusations in detail.

Mr. Robert Eadis, Jr. was born on August 13, 1950. He served a short sentence at Guelph reformatory, as he stated publicly, and was released on parole on September 21, 1968. Mr. Eadie's parole expired on February 24, 1969. On March 17, 1969 he was convicted of theft and sentenced to a \$50 fine or 15 days in jail. He paid the \$50 fine. After March 17, 1969 there were no charges pending against him.

In a television broadcast Mr. Eadie made five significant allegations. First allegation: Mr. Eadie, Jr. said:

One night I got picked up by the city police regarding intoxication and they called the RCMP because they were aware I knew people on the drug scene and they forced me by threatening that they would send me back to prison if I did not give them information regarding drugs.

Mr. Eadie also said:

They took me to the station and put me in a cell and then they got in touch with the RCMP as they knew that the RCMP wanted someone like me to get hold of.

The facts are that there is no record of Robert W. Eadie, Jr. ever having been arrested by the Cornwall city police or having been put in their cells as alleged; that in April, 1969, the Cornwall city police received a telephone call from Mr. Eadie, Jr. during which he stated that he had information to provide on drug use in Cornwall; that Mr.

[Mr. Goyer.]

Eadie Jr. was advised that someone would contact him. The Cornwall city police then informed the RCMP detachment commander at Long Sault and suggested that he should get in touch with Mr. Eadie, Jr.; that, on or about April 20, 1969, the RCMP detachment commander telephoned Mr. Eadie, Jr. and arranged to meet with him; that Mr. Eadie, Jr. told the RCMP detachment commander that he had information to supply on both users and traffickers of drugs in Cornwall and he began supplying information to the RCMP detachment commander on April 24, 1969. He was first paid for information on April 30, 1969.

At this point, may I make it clear to hon. members that at the time Mr. Eadie, Jr. was first contacted by the RCMP he was 18 years and eight months old and was not a juvenile.

Mr. Eadie, Jr. received intermittent payments totalling \$710 for information which resulted in successful police actions in 14 cases between April 30, 1969, and February 18, 1971, the latter being the last occasion upon which Mr. Eadie, Jr. received informant payments from the RCMP. Mr. Eadie, Jr. did continue, however, to supply information on a voluntary basis to the RCMP detachment at Long Sault until July, 1971, without receiving any money.

Second allegation: Mr. Eadie Jr. said, when questioned as to whether his parents were aware of his activities, "No, they were not. They weren't aware of anything at all".

The facts are that about six weeks after the initial contact was between Mr. Eadie, Jr. and the RCMP Mr. Eadie's parents were made aware of their son's activities. This was confirmed by telephone from the RCMP detachment commander at Long Sault to Mr. Eadie's father on or about June 1, 1969. The father expressed approval of his son's activities and, in fact, on two occasions he accompanied his son to the RCMP detachment of Long Sault when he went to collect payments. Hon. members should also know that in the early spring of 1971 Mr. Eadie's father in discussion with the RCMP at Long Sault implied that the association Mr. Eadie, Jr. had with the RCMP was beneficial to him.

• (11:20 a.m.)

Third allegation: Mr. Eadie, Jr. said that the RCMP were "threatening me because I had a choice to come across with information or get busted by them even as far as getting planted with drugs on me and sent back up for this".

The facts are that Mr. Eadie, Jr. offered his services to the Cornwall City Police and the RCMP voluntarily; that he was never threatened, intimidated or coerced into giving information to members of the RCMP with whom he came into contact prior to his leaving the Cornwall area in July, 1971; that during the period between April 24, 1969, and July, 1971, there were no charges pending or laid against Mr. Eadie, Jr. known to either the RCMP or the Cornwall city police.

Fourth allegation: In reply to the question "How many busts did you help make over?" Mr. Eadie, Jr. said "three over a two and a half year period". The facts are that Mr. Eadie gave information on many occasions; that he was paid for providing information on 21 different occasions