

Supply—Justice

hon. member for Lapointe. The R.C.M.P. investigated the allegations that one or two persons had unlawfully identified themselves as members of the R.C.M.P. It was established that one of them had an identification card issued by the R.C.M.P. commissioner under section 8, chapter 54, of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, 1959. The commissioner in question is now retired.

This identification card showed that the bearer was a member of the R.C.M.P. and an officer of the peace. That person had been the executive assistant to the last minister of justice in the former government.

That identification card has been withdrawn. There is no evidence that another person involved in that case had such a card.

I have a report from the R.C.M.P. and after consulting the legal officers of the department, I decided there was no reason to take the matter before the courts.

● (9:30 p.m.)

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, I have a further question with regard to the card which was withdrawn, I believe, after the former executive assistant had used it. In the present case, can the Minister of Justice tell us whether that former executive assistant was entitled to use that card when he did so, whether he was a member of the R.C.M.P., whether he had any reason to use it then, whether he used it with the permission of senior officers of the R.C.M.P., whether he still had the right at that time to keep that card and whether he used it within the operations of the R.C.M.P.?

Could the minister tell us also what other persons were involved with that former executive assistant? Were those other persons present when the former executive assistant produced that card? Did those other persons know that the former executive assistant was not a member of the R.C.M.P. and was not entitled to use that card?

Was it agreed that he should bring out this card although he was not entitled to it? Can the minister give the names of the three persons implicated in this affair?

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Chairman, the series of questions from the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire) can hardly be answered tonight. I do not remember exactly the names of the three persons involved. I hardly believe I should publish the names of persons following this kind of investigation.

As far as the identity card is concerned, the card proves that the bearer is in fact an agent of the R.C.M.P., a peace officer. For this reason it was not possible to prosecute him.

Now I do not believe the incumbent R.C.M.P. commissioner was aware that such a card existed. In fact, I am sure he was not aware this card was in circulation.

Mr. Grégoire: I do not at all wish to question the good faith of the commissioner, but did the former executive assistant still have the right and the permission to use this card at that time. Was he authorized to use it in this specific instance? Would the Minister of Justice perhaps answer these two questions tonight?

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Chairman, I have just said that the present commissioner did not know of the existence of the card and, consequently, I do not see how the person who had it could use it.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, does the Minister of Justice admit and recognize as normal that an individual should use an R.C.M.P. card without permission? Would the minister consider taking certain steps against the person who did this?

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Chairman, I have just answered this question. It is impossible to institute proceedings under the circumstances, because the card showed that he was an agent of the R.C.M.P. and an officer of the peace.

Mr. Grégoire: One last question, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister say whether there are many people in Canada who have cards like that one and without the R.C.M.P. commissioner knowing about it? Are there many people like that in Canada? For instance, could I have one?

Mr. Cardin: No, Mr. Chairman, there is not one card like that in circulation.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Mr. Chairman, this afternoon we have been treated to some of the queerest expositions of the concepts of justice that I have heard in a long time. I know it is the habit of those opposite to laugh at anything that smacks of justice in Canada and justice in this house.

We have heard the hon. member for Lapointe, an expert on the subject, speak about demagoguery on this side of the house, and