

*Supply—Justice*

both sides. But this should be clarified. When you talk about broken contracts between a province and a government, that is one thing. But how about a contract that is made with an individual. How far does my duty go? Have I the right to refuse. When you straighten out the contract between the province and the dominion, perhaps there should be something written into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act so that a man knows whether he is a policeman or a soldier.

I joined the mounted police in June, 1935, and before I was even in uniform I was armed, stood by and was called out to wield a club against people who were ready to march on Ottawa to present their views. I am not going into that. I was not trained; I was not a soldier. I signed a contract to serve king and country as a policeman. To people who drag in emotions and say that it is my duty at all times to maintain law and order I say that is not so. You are asking me to do something which you yourselves are not called on to do and I am entitled as an ordinary uniformed member of the force to know where my duties start and where they stop.

**Mr. Hardie:** You are also entitled to get out of the force if you do not like it.

**Mr. Bigg:** I am speaking because I have served in the force. I know what the onus is when you are called upon to use violence against your fellow citizens. In view of the difference of opinion expressed not only in the press and in the country but in this very chamber, I do not think that the duties of a policeman are very clearly understood. I merely suggest to you that we consider this. Apparently this is of great national importance, and we should settle the matter whether or not the members of the R.C.M.P. cannot have their formal duties outlined and when it comes to going beyond the call of duty I suggest that might be left to their conscience.

**Mr. Howard:** I should like to make a few remarks with respect to the discussions that have gone on this afternoon, and particularly with regard to parts of it. I listened with a great deal of interest to the almost impassioned remarks of the Minister of Justice with respect to the maintenance of law and order and the general respect that we must have for the law enforcement officers and for law itself. There is no doubt that that is quite true. We all agree, I am sure, that the law enforcement officers, whether they be R.C.M. Police or whether they be attached to some other part of our police forces such as municipal or provincial

[Mr. Bigg.]

forces, are a necessity and do carry out extremely useful functions, generally speaking, in enforcing law and order. But some sort of general impassioned appeal such as we heard a moment ago should not be allowed to overcloud what I think are occasional errors and mistakes in so far as the enforcement of law and order is concerned and in so far as the activities of the R.C.M. Police are concerned, because this is the force we are discussing at the present time.

Unfortunately I had to attend a joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons on Indian affairs this afternoon and did not have the opportunity to hear my friend from Timiskaming make reference to an article and a comment of Senator Gladstone with respect to the Six Nations confederacy and the problem that arose down there. I understand that my friend and colleague from Timiskaming read sections of the comments of Senator Gladstone in so far as the activities of the R.C.M. Police are concerned on that particular reserve. This is one instance where I feel a grave error was made by the R.C.M. Police in their activities. The minister did not deal in detail with the comments made by the senator, but I hope he was not trying to disagree with what Senator Gladstone had to say with respect to the activities of the R.C.M. Police. Therefore I would like the minister to go further into that and say whether he would agree or disagree with the comments of the senator with respect to the activities of the R.C.M. Police on the Six Nations reserve with particular reference to people being knocked down as he said nine times: with reference to what the senator said about the houses of three Indians being invaded by the R.C.M. Police, and that sort of thing, in order to assess the impact and the effect of the activities of the R.C.M. Police on the relationship between the Six Nations elected council and the Six Nations confederacy, and the relationship that these groups of people have with the government of Canada and how it has been aggravated and upset by the activities of the R.C.M. Police.

When we get to the question of the enforcement of law we oft times find that in the very enforcement of that law people become upset; they lose their respect for the R.C.M. Police or the law enforcement officer, not because of the enforcement of the law but because the law is a bit foolish in the first place. I have specific reference to the liquor act and the liquor regulations as they apply to native Indians. This is another case in point.

Perhaps we might call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.