

was nothing the government was fearful to have revealed, why the delay in production, for the fact is that the order in council, if revealed, would not in any way have interfered with the investigation that was taking place.

I ask hon. members on all sides of the house to look at this matter from the point of view of justice and fairness; to demand the return to this parliament of its right to legislate; to assure that we are guardians of the rights of the people in their quest for justice, and to demand of the government that order in council government shall end while parliament is in session and that gross interferences with the rights of the individual shall no longer be tolerated by this parliament.

Mr. HOWE: My hon. friend has built up a very dramatic speech on slender material. He has made a great deal of the fact that we were hiding orders in council. As a matter of fact, my colleague (Mr. McIlraith) who is at present sitting with me reminded me that he had these orders in council in his desk for two or three weeks. He asked me two or three times if we would table them and I said that we had better wait until somebody asked for them.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: The question was asked on October 8.

Mr. HOWE: The question was to table orders in council since September 2. I wish my hon. friend would show me the question; I would appreciate that very much.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Apparently the minister did not know of my question.

Mr. HOWE: Nevertheless we will discuss the Eldorado question. The Eldorado situation was not a usual situation. The property was taken over at a time when the mere mention of uranium sent a shudder through many thousands of people who were engaged in a project that meant a great deal to the ending of the war. We hesitated for months before we dared to take the step we knew we must take, because we were afraid of the publicity. Finally we did it by order in council. I stood in the house here and asked hon. members not to ask questions about it, and I must say that they were most obliging in that regard. They respected my statement that it was a matter which could not be discussed, for reasons associated with the war.

The product of that mine has a tremendous war potential. I do not need to discuss that. The three leaders of the democratic world met in Washington all last week to discuss the product of that material and its use. It

was important to know where that material went, whether it is produced in Canada or produced in any other part of the world. Some months ago there was a change in the directorate of Eldorado. The secretary of the company resigned for no particular reason. Some doubt was cast upon some of the transactions of the company. Whether there was any justice in those doubts I cannot say, but having in mind that we were dealing with a material of such tremendous war potential it was believed to be most necessary to know whether any of that material had gone astray, whether there was any material not accounted for.

Therefore Mr. Grant Glassco was charged with the duty of investigating. His job was to trace every transaction, either in radium or in uranium, and to determine the ultimate destination of the product. That seems a simple thing. In fact the government in time of war is entitled to know that, having in mind the enormous destructive potentiality of the material.

He attempted to examine several people, one or two of whom were agents of the company and acting in an agency capacity, while others were officers of the company or former officers of the company. It would seem to me that those explanations would be simple; I did not think there would be any great difficulty about the investigation when the investigator was first appointed. I believed he could get the facts quite easily and be able to reconcile any discrepancies that appeared. But that was not his experience. What did we find?

We found that every man called to explain his part in the transactions produced a lawyer, and that those lawyers considered it to be their duty to obstruct the obtaining of any information. One cannot but remember the old biblical saying, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth". We had charged no one with anything; no one was even suspected; we were just trying to find out the facts. Remember that the war was still going on; the atomic bomb had not been used. The use of the atomic bomb did not change the seriousness of the situation. To-day it is just as necessary to know the destination of every particle of that material as it was before the bomb was used; in fact, perhaps it is more necessary, because the possibilities of its use may be more serious now than before the effect of the bomb was known. We are tracing these transactions through with all the expedition we can use. We are trying to find out. We have not found out yet, but we are pretty certain that eventually we shall know.