

veterans, when we started providing training in military institutions, when we started providing funding for second language training.

The hon. member for Vaudreuil pointed out, quite correctly, that we have reached a stage where we are spending close to \$3 billion in funding language training, co-ordination and assistance. I would add that initially and ultimately the initiative still remains with the provinces, and we should point out to the provinces that they are not doing enough. I think we can be satisfied, from arguments made by representatives of all the parties today, that the provinces have left something to be desired and that they should be co-ordinating themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I see that my time has expired.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m., at which time the House will consider a motion to be moved by the Leader of the Opposition, pursuant to Standing Order 26.

At 6.02 p.m. the House took recess.

● (2002)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 26

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ILLEGAL ACTS COMMITTED BY FORCE

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. By application earlier this day by the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) and later in the day by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent), as a result of which leave having been granted to the hon. Leader of the Opposition to move the adjournment of the House pursuant to Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the revelations on Friday, October 28, 1977, by the Solicitor General (Mr. Fox), that the RCMP has in the recent past illegally entered premises to steal information concerning a legal political party, which raises major questions of policy and procedure in the vital area of national security, accordingly the motion is as follows: It is moved by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mr. Broadbent:

That this House do now adjourn.

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is not a happy occasion for the House of Commons or for the country that it is necessary for us to meet in a special debate tonight to deal with the matters which have given rise to this debate.

RCMP

On at least four occasions we now know that the security service of the RCMP broke the law of Canada in the name of national security. Incidents that we know about involve the raid on L'Agence de Presse Libre du Québec, the burning of a barn near Montreal, the theft of dynamite, and an illegal activity resulting in information about the membership lists and the financial affairs of the Parti Québécois. There may be more.

This evening an Ottawa television station reported that in 1971 security officers infiltrated the so-called Common Front established during that period by the three labour unions in the province of Quebec and, among other things, stole from those organizations documents dealing with their bargaining position and their strategy vis-à-vis the Bourassa government.

I hope that the Solicitor General (Mr. Fox) will deal with this report when he speaks in the debate later tonight. I hope too that he will tell us whether he was correctly quoted as saying that the probability of more incidents coming is quite high and, if that is the case, he will advise us now, tonight, of the nature and the extent of other illegal acts of which he has knowledge.

Those are the illegal acts that we know about, acts in the name of national security. However, it is important for this House and the country to remember that this same phrase has been invoked to prevent the Laycraft inquiry in Alberta from learning more details of a bugging operation, and invoked also to prevent the Laycraft inquiry from investigating the use of an agreement between the Department of National Revenue and the RCMP, an agreement still in effect, which violates the confidentiality of income tax files. It was for related reasons that the government consistently refused to answer questions placed by my colleague, the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen), concerning the activities of various security committees of the Government of Canada.

Mr. Allmand: Nonsense.

Mr. Clark: The former Solicitor General says nonsense. There is no question at all that that kind of conduct by the government is nonsense.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: Everyone accepts that, in the modern world, governments have to authorize and follow some secret activities. But we must be alarmed about the apparent pattern of breaking the law which has emerged in the last few months, and we must be alarmed about the use of "national security" as an excuse to hide a multitude of sins. Why not tell parliament about the activities of General Dare and Colonel Bourne? Why not let the Laycraft inquiry carry out the investigation it was established by the Attorney General of Alberta to carry out? Why not do those things?

We are also alarmed about the fundamental although separate question of who authorizes and controls the security apparatus of the Government of Canada.