

Security Intelligence Service

mislaïd. I am at a bit of a disadvantage, but I will try to move on as rapidly as possible.

My argument has dealt with your paragraph 2 and my Motion No. 3. It has dealt with Motion No. 11, which is the motion to retain the service under the aegis of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I think in the interest of cohesiveness, I want to discuss for a moment paragraph 6 of Your Honour's preliminary ruling. Paragraph 6 reads, "Motions Nos. 15, 76, 84, 117 and 175 attempt to introduce an entirely new concept and principle into the Bill of a parliamentary oversight committee, a concept not in the Bill as introduced or as read a second time. Such a committee was also mentioned in Motion No. 4, previously ruled out of order, and is a new idea which was not contemplated in the Bill as agreed to at second reading. Thus it is clearly beyond the scope of the Bill, and I must rule each of these motions out of order."

Those particular motions which are set out in paragraph 6 are basically motions which have been introduced by other Members. What Your Worship may not have noticed is our Motion No. 123—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) is rising on what basis?

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have a question as to the practice with respect to the appellation of the Chair. I have heard reference to "Your Worship". I know "Your Worship" is not a mayor. I do not know whether this is an appropriate—

Mr. Speaker: I suggest there might be a little latitude permitted. The Hon. Member is not being disrespectful to the Chair. The Hon. Member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser).

Mr. Fraser: Your Honour, I have spent a good deal of the life I led before I came here in various courtrooms and places of significance.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fraser: I have been in the habit of having to think through carefully just how I address the august and esteemed persons before whom I appeared. I want Your Honour to know that I was concentrating so hard on the pith and substance of my submission to you, as I know you were, that I did not notice having said that. The interesting thing is that you were listening so carefully to me that you did not notice either!

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): I was listening.

Mr. Fraser: But my hon. friend from Burnaby was not listening to the pith and substance at all, Your Honour. He was just listening to these little details. I have, however, refrained from addressing Your Honour as "Your Lordship" or "Your Grace", knowing that even if I—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: I would ask the Hon. Member to get on with his argument. I am sure the mood of the House is to extend a

certain latitude because courtesy is obviously being extended to the Chair. Under such circumstances, the Chair could not care less.

Mr. Fraser: Your Honour, if raising your dignity will advance my argument any, I would cheerfully do it.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fraser: Back to the pith and substance of this cogent argument that I am making, motion No. 23, which is our motion, deals with a parliamentary oversight committee. It is not mentioned in your paragraph 6, which I suppose was an oversight, but I want to discuss it. I think I am duty bound to bring this to your attention. Unless it is dealt with in the context of your paragraph 6, it will just have to be dealt with at another time because I am sure Your Honour would notice it.

Motion No. 123 is not mentioned in paragraph 6. I hope your Table officers are following carefully the point I am making because I think Your Honour would have wished that it be included, so I will address it now. The purpose of Motion No. 123 is to introduce a new Clause 56. Motion No. 123 reads:

That Bill C-9 be amended by adding immediately after line 20 at page 24 the following:

"56. The administration, provisions and operation of this Act shall be reviewed on a permanent basis by such committee of the House of Commons or of the House of Commons and Senate as may be designated or established by Parliament for that purpose."

What that does, Your Honour, is enable the government of the day from time to time, according to what it wishes to do under this section, to create a review committee made up of Members of the House of Commons, or of the House of Commons and Senate. Your Honour has indicated, at least in your first view of this, that this would be an entirely new concept, and as a consequence it would be beyond the scope of the Bill. The Bill does include a review committee. It is an appointed committee and it could include Members of Parliament. I think the general intention was that it would be aimed at people not in the House of Commons or Senate. To bring in an amendment to this Bill that would also establish a parliamentary overview committee in my view does not seem to break with the principle or add some new principle to the main theme of the Bill.

● (1150)

Mr. Speaker: Order. The point is the process by which committees of this House are established. There is an amendment which says it should be reviewed by a parliamentary committee. The initial reaction of the Chair is that Parliament can always decide that a review should take place, but to establish a special committee by this process gives the Chair concern. There is a method through the Standing Orders. Sometimes the statutes may expressly provide. However, to establish a special committee through this process is what gives the Chair concern.