

Legal Assistance

other treaties only by one with Finland. In respect of the provisions for bail pending trial, the researcher notes, the limitation here is for six months. She trusts that anyone who would be held longer than that would obtain freedom thanks to Indian press coverage of violations. We have a nice example of an area in which there probably will not be that type of action. Considering the comments of the researcher on the political offences that the treaty covers—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. The Hon. Member is aware that he should not pass between the Speaker and the Member speaking. I would appreciate very much if I could see the debater, the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay—Nipigon.

● (1530)

Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon): Mr. Speaker, when we come to the section of the treaty that deals with political offences, we have a clause which is so drawn, recognizing the way in which terrorism is treated these days, that there are next to no protections.

In summing up, I want to point out that a careful comparison of the extradition treaty with India and with other treaties Canada has leaves cause for concern. Recognizing that the treaty was arrived at by the Government with the Government of India and that there is a possibility of other treaties being added to the list provided by Section 4 of the Act, I am worried about the way in which Bill C-58 might operate. I want to indicate that my colleagues and I are opposing the Bill. Assuming it receives second reading here, thanks to the action of others, we want to give it the most vigorous possible consideration in committee in order to ensure that the fewest possible dangers arise under the operation of it.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I want to make a few observations about the Bill and express my concern about the way in which friendly relationship between our country and our neighbours to the south has been misused in the past and may be even more misused in the future as a result of the passage of Bill C-58. We are friends of the United States and we want to continue to be friends. After all, there is no other example of a border between two countries of more than 3,000 miles which is undefended, and we want that to continue.

We know, as the Americans know, that there is no country with whom we have greater and more important trade relations than we have with the United States and they have with us. We try to maintain good a relationship with the Americans, but it becomes obvious when we look at the record that our friendship is misused and mistreated. We want that friendship to continue, but not at the price which we have in the past and may again in the future have to pay, and I do not think we can continue to be friends with the Americans if we have to crawl on our bellies to please them.

When I look at some of the actions which the Americans have taken by using and misusing information obtained from

Canadians, particularly from the Canadian security services, I am very dubious about what is proposed in Bill C-58 and what will be permitted under the terms of it. I will not repeat in any detail the information put on the record earlier today by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson). He referred to the decision by the American Government to forbid Farley Mowat, a very well known and highly respected author who is a Canadian, travelling to the United States because of some comments he made about the foreign affairs approach of the American Government. Similarly, the Saskatchewan professor, Jim Harding, is not permitted to go to the United States because, according to the Americans, he attended a conference in the Soviet Union.

I want however, to speak about a much more serious blot on the record, namely, the tragedy which occurred in the life of a very distinguished Canadian diplomat, one of the best known and ablest that we ever had, namely, Mr. Herbert Norman. He was a very close friend of former Prime Minister Pearson. Mr. Norman worked with Mr. Pearson for many years in our External Affairs Department. He was harassed and maligned in the U.S.A. His reputation was dragged through the dirt in American congressional committees. He was accused of being a communist and of being a spy. Those accusations came from Congressmen and Senators in the United States who would consider anybody to the left of Genghis Khan a communist. On what did they base their claims? They based them on the allegation that when Mr. Norman was young and studying at Oxford he had been a member of a communist cell. They were talking about something Mr. Norman may or may not have done some 30 or more years before the time when these charges were laid.

From where did these Congressmen and Senators get this information? There were only two ways, Mr. Speaker. First, the Americans could have obtained the information if they had had security service agents working in Canada. As far as I know, there has never been any evidence that Americans have agents working in Canada except, I suppose, a few the CIA agents who are here in Ottawa in the American Embassy. Second, the Americans get information, which they get about many Canadians and other citizens of other countries, by the exchange of information between the security service in Canada, previously the RCMP and now the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and agents and representatives of agencies of the United States, either the FBI or the CIA.

One expects security agencies operating in countries which are friendly with each other to exchange information. One also expects that that information is kept within the walls and files of the respective security agencies, particularly when so much of the so-called information contained in the files is there on the basis of unsubstantiated, unproven, often completely false information given to security agencies. As far as I know, and I have been interested in the subject for a number of years, no information which the Canadian security agencies have on Canadians or anybody else has been leaked or made public in any other way to the media, the radio, TV or newspapers.