

Supply—Justice

would be qualified in that field, because he has been faced with similar situations, it is the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton), a former Minister of Justice.

Why did he not say a word about it, Mr. Chairman? I admit, at first sight, that something might look surprising in this whole story.

If such a thing were done to one of my electors in the riding of Lapointe, I can assure you that I would see to it that it did not happen again and I would take the matter to court, where justice could be done, and not before the group of demagogues we have been hearing in this house in the last few days. The first thing I would do, Mr. Chairman, would be to go and see him. I would ask him questions, at least to know what I am talking about, because those who did not even take the trouble of seeing Spencer, the first one concerned, whether they come from British Columbia or Ontario—and the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) was there three weeks ago—do not have a very serious case. Indeed, when one wants to talk about something, one must first get some information. I heard the Leader of the Opposition, after a pathetic plea, say "I rest", as if he were before the court. "I rest" but he has not even met, not even seen and not even heard the defendant. Mr. Chairman, can you imagine a lawyer who would come before the courts and who, using legal terms, would say "I rest", without having seen, heard or spoken to his client. If a lawyer behaved like that, he would soon lose all his cases and all his clients. That is why we must question the sincerity and honesty of those famous lawyers who, in the last four or five days, have attempted to defend a client without even trying to meet him, to see him or to question him.

I have three questions to put to the Minister of Justice. But he could possibly answer this one: If another member of the house wanted to question Mr. Spencer, would the R.C.M.P. prevent him from doing so?

Mr. Cardin: No, Mr. Chairman.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Grégoire: Well then, Mr. Chairman, since the hon. member for Yukon was in British Columbia three weeks ago, did he not try to meet him?

[Mr. Grégoire.]

Was he prevented from meeting him? The hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) lives not far—

[*English*]

Mr. Nielsen: Too busy in Montreal.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Did the hon. member for Bow River who lives in a province not too remote from British Columbia try to meet him? The Minister of Justice stated that whoever wished to meet Mr. Spencer could do so.

If you want to defend a man, my friends, start by meeting your client and acquiring information, and then perhaps you will be less demagogic. Mr. Chairman, it is enough to make one question the sincerity and intellectual integrity of all these gentlemen who talk through their hat.

Mr. Chairman, my second question—my first one was answered rather promptly, I am glad to say—I asked this afternoon. I understand that perhaps the Minister of Justice does not wish to answer it; he may be right, but did not the same thing happen, did not similar events occur in the past, during the government of the present Leader of the Opposition, between 1957 and 1963? Did this happen before, were there similar cases? Were today's puritans as puritan then?

When their party did it, did they show the same indignation? Has this ever happened?

Without mentioning particular cases or saying how many there were, without trying to identify anybody or anything, perhaps the minister could tell us whether that was done under the previous regime? The Minister of Justice could probably tell us that.

Third, Mr. Chairman—and I find that I have let myself get carried away from my subject—last week I put a series of questions to the Minister of Justice concerning the use of R.C.M.P. membership cards by persons who did not belong to the mounted police. I think the minister said then that he would answer my questions, so I wonder whether he would now be ready to make a statement in that connection.

That is why I would like to afford him the opportunity to answer the questions I put to him the other day.

Mr. Cardin: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry if I cannot answer all his questions now, but here is the answer to a question put to me by the