

Section 5 also says that the commissioner, under the direction of the minister, has the control and management of the force. These, again, are powers that the minister could have exercised without creating a body that some in the Mounted Police, I think, feel constitutes an infringement upon themselves. Also, and this is a point that nobody has raised, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act provides for an oath of office. This little new group, I am sure, is not obligated by any oath whatsoever. I think that is important when dealing with the security of Canada.

In short, the group has no statutory basis and no accountability. It comes in the middle of the night, and suddenly we are faced with it and some pretty dread suspicions about it. I read from an editorial in the September 2 edition of the *Globe and Mail*:

—if a secretariat is needed it should be responsible to the Privy Council which is to all intents and purposes the cabinet. Its advice should be to the cabinet, not to Mr. Goyer. Then the cabinet could still be assured of hearing the opinions of both the RCMP and the agency. If Mr. Goyer were responsible for both the secretariat and the RCMP, the cabinet would receive only one version: the one worked out in the Solicitor General's department.

Before this new agency is created, Mr. Goyer should give the country a full explanation of how it would operate and why he is proceeding with an idea already rejected by Mr. Trudeau. And the proper place for such an explanation is Parliament.

My two questions to the minister are as follows, Mr. Speaker: First, will the group in fact advise the minister on the operations of the RCMP and possible changes to that world famous force? Second, will this new group be given a formal legislative structure so that all in Parliament will have an appropriate opportunity of dealing with its creation?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, most of the remarks made about the planning and research group I have established in my department were made following an indiscretion by a person still unknown. I am surprised that serious editors and members could comment a rumour, an indiscretion before I have had time to explain the role of this working unit. However, I think it might be worth while once more to

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define what will be the responsibilities of this working group.

On June 26, 1969, the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) made the following comments about the report of the Royal Commission on Security:

The security service, under the Commissioner of the R.C.M.P., will be increasingly separate in structure and civilian in nature.

That principle remains. It is respected, and the fact that a research and planning group has been put in action does not change anything to the basic principle expressed by the Prime Minister.

I would add that there is no question of this group directing police operations as such. As a matter of fact, as is indicated by its name, it is a research group, a planning group that will be mainly concerned with analysis.

In fact, what are the true responsibilities of this working group? First of all, to compile information and not to go and find it or to set up some police services. The information will be provided mainly by the RCMP, of course, as well as by the armed forces, other departments that have information relating to the security of the country as well as by provincial government and other sources accessible to the public.

● (10:20 p.m.)

It should then assess this information and call for additional information should the data obtained be inadequate. Finally, it should analyse the information as a whole, not merely from a strict police point of view, but in a much wider spirit, that is taking into consideration social, economic and political factors.

I feel it is wrong to expect such an agency to operate in isolation, that is, to transmit only police information to the government. What matters is that it should be situated in relation to a global objective of the government, taking government policies into account, supplying the government with better information as to the policy to be followed for internal security.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order, please. I regret to have to interrupt the minister but, as he knows, the time granted to him has expired.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.22 p.m.