

*Morality in Government*

The commissioner said that he was aware, of course, that the matters that were being discussed were, in part at least, subject to gossip. When answering that direct question before the Prime Minister he said, "Yes, sir," and he referred to this specific file, the Munsinger file. The Prime Minister then, according to the commissioner, said that he had better see it, and he saw it.

There is also the evidence, and I again paraphrase, that while this took place as far back as December 1 or December 2 of 1964 the file was delivered to the Prime Minister on this occasion and it was not an excerpt or anything of the kind, as he would have it today. A file was delivered. I did not say "the". I say "a file" was delivered to the Prime Minister. It was never seen again by the commissioner of police for a period of 15 months.

That, sir, is the evidence in paraphrase, and it answers the Prime Minister today when he comes before this house and leaves the impression, by what he says took place, that the commissioner's evidence was not in accordance with the facts.

**An hon. Member:** It was given under oath.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That evidence was given under oath by the commissioner. I point out that circumstance. Instead of facing up to this, because he knows that is what was said by the commissioner, the Prime Minister comes to the house and produces a caricature of what took place. Sir, what we are facing is an interpretation of evidence that could not be misinterpreted if it could be read into the record of this house. The Prime Minister gave a misinterpretation of that evidence in order to get out of a position in which no prime minister has ever been in this country, of using the mounted police as "Pearson's political police" for his own purposes to destroy political—

**Mr. Sauvé:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I cannot speak in too strong terms—

**Mr. Sauvé:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Kindt:** What is the point of order?

• (5:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Sauvé:** Is the Leader of the Opposition not in fact accusing the commissioner of the R.C.M.P. of having been part of a political plot?

**Mr. Pearson:** That is exactly what he is doing.

**Mr. Sauvé:** If this is so—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Would the minister kindly resume his seat? It seems that the point he is making now is a point of debate. If there is a point of order he should state it directly. What he is stating now is an argument, not a point of order at all.

**Mr. Sauvé:** Would the Leader of the Opposition allow a question at this time, because this is very important?

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Minister of Forestry is rising to seek permission to ask a question of the Leader of the Opposition who has the floor.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I think I have been very generous. I have been standing here now for over an hour and in that time I believe I have spoken for about 15 minutes because of the opposition of members opposite who are afraid to hear the truth.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** They have said that the truth will take a long time to permeate, but the truth will not take a long time to permeate if I can read the record.

**Mr. Sauvé:** I am asking the Leader of the Opposition if he will permit a question.

**Some hon. Members:** Sit down.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The minister knows that the Leader of the Opposition has the floor and that if he is not disposed to allow a question—

**Mr. Sauvé:** I am asking the right hon. gentleman if he will hear my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Leader of the Opposition, who has the floor, has indicated that he will not allow a question at this time.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am not dealing with shoes.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Sauvé:** On a question of privilege, I am asking a question directly related to this debate, one which is fundamental.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.