

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

reasonable rational step of acting on it. This statement that has been made by the Solicitor General is not credible. It seeks to whitewash the government while witchhunting on the RCMP by its terms of reference.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The Solicitor General stated in his remarks today that they have not limited the investigation to the activities of the RCMP with respect to the APLQ but want to look at all RCMP activities and all the illegal activities of the RCMP. He failed very notably to mention the fact that the terms of reference will not be extended to involve the role of the Solicitor General, those who have held that office, and the activities of the RCMP and their degree of competence, incompetence or wrongdoing. That is a glaring omission from these terms of reference.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: On the basis of the Solicitor General's approach to this whole matter, we in Canada are running closer and closer to Nixonian politics of stonewalling until they are finally forced to give out.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: This may have some bearing on the reason why the Solicitor General has been so anxious to have an election now, before we can uncover more incompetence and more wrongdoing that has taken place.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: This is not the kind of inquiry that has been asked for by such responsible groups as the Canadian Bar Association. It is not the kind of inquiry asked for by such distinguished and eminent Canadians as the Hon. Emmett Hall, representing the Civil Liberties Union.

An attempt by the government to whitewash its responsibility with regard to its relationship with the RCMP is an attempt to focus attention on that fine force for which we in this party have tried to preserve respect in this country, unlike the government and the Solicitor General.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: We cannot accept this to be a complete judicial inquiry with respect to the matters we have raised in this House, and only because the government has now decided to act under considerable pressure, unless there are included within the terms of reference the following: that the present Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer) must testify under oath with respect to his involvement in this whole matter.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Second, it must be completely clear in the terms of reference that there will be complete access to the

[Mr. Hnatyshyn.]

minutes of the cabinet committee on security and intelligence, chaired by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Third we believe the commission should have, on a confidential basis if necessary, and I refer to the previous suggestion as to the terms of reference that it could well be on a confidential basis to the commissioners as provided for in an inquiry, access to the files of the Solicitors General, past and present. Also, the terms of reference should provide that the present Solicitor General and the present Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Allmand), the former Solicitor General, testify under oath with respect to the operations of the RCMP.

The terms of reference should make it perfectly clear that it includes a complete investigation of the preparation and distribution of the extra parliamentary opposition list which has been of some prominence in this House. This is the list which is apparently related to the break-in at the Praxis Corporation in Toronto.

● (1540)

We finally suggest, and because we have had such a brief time these are only certain suggestions, and we may raise further suggestions for the benefit of the Solicitor General, that there also be an investigation of the wrongful destruction of RCMP documents alleged to have occurred on June 2 and 2 of this year. Unless these matters are included in the terms of reference we can only come to the conclusion that this inquiry is an attempt to stall any discussion with respect to this matter, an attempt to focus the inquiry exclusively on the RCMP. Certain senior officers of the force have something to answer with respect to its activities—I am not disputing that—but I want to make perfectly clear that the government bears a very substantial responsibility with respect to the incidents that are now raised and which have generated this judicial inquiry.

Since the Commissioner of the RCMP has stated that the illegalities of the RCMP may now be considered to be widespread we must also have the opportunity in this judicial inquiry to look at the climate which existed in government and in which apparently the government either neglected or refused to investigate allegations of wrongful acts committed by the RCMP. That should be an essential part of any inquiry, and it must be included.

I must say, in conclusion, that we feel the Solicitor General should give this undertaking that we shall not be precluded from asking questions or raising inquiries with respect to any illegalities on the part of the RCMP merely because there is now some general, wide-brush investigation in process. I hope the Solicitor General will deal with these matters when they are raised in the House, because we intend to raise them as they come forward in discharge of our responsibility to the people of Canada.

There is one danger which I should like to draw attention to with respect to this inquiry. I have been concerned for a long period with respect to the apprehension that the Prime Minis-