

beyond doubt. The police cannot rely on hearsay, inference or innuendo. They must have evidence which is subjected to rigid scrutiny and cross-examination. The CBC seems to be able to use hidden cameras and hidden microphones without any criticism whatsoever from hon. members opposite, but that is the kind of thing they want to deny the police in their fight against organized crime, a fight which they are directly mandated to undertake.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fox: If I may, I would like briefly to review some of the initiatives which have been taken with regard to combatting organized crime in Canada. These initiatives were taken by responsible law enforcement authorities, without fanfare. Attorneys general and police departments across the country are co-operating in a number of areas. For many years the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and other major police forces in Canada have been keenly aware of, and very concerned about, the influence of organized crime in this country. This concern was expressed during the 1950s when efforts were made to investigate the activities of residents in Canada who were in contact with or associated with individuals from other countries, particularly the U.S.A., who were involved with organized crime.

● (1600)

By the early 1960s the Canadian police community started to form, within various police forces, intelligence units to gather information and data on suspected or known persons controlling criminal activities. The RCMP, because of its national responsibility for law enforcement, began to play a liaison role to promote the formation of such units and the exchange of intelligence among major police forces in Canada. Attorneys general were briefed on the phenomena of organized crime and met to discuss the problem and possible solutions.

This brings me to January, 1966, when a federal-provincial conference of attorneys general was held in Ottawa. At that conference the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner), who was at the time minister of justice for the province of Quebec, proposed the creation of a central intelligence bureau for the use of all police forces in Canada "to provide for the collection, analysis and dissemination of criminal intelligence to effectively combat organized crime". A resolution of the conference created a committee on criminal intelligence to explore the nature, scope and workability of a new central intelligence mechanism.

By August, 1967, the report of the committee on criminal intelligence recommended the formation of a Canadian criminal intelligence system with a central repository at RCMP headquarters, Ottawa; the establishment of provincial criminal intelligence centres in each province; that provincial criminal intelligence centres in the provinces policed by the RCMP be formed from RCMP criminal intelligence units already in existence; that the provincial criminal intelligence centres in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec be otherwise designated. They subsequently became the criminal intelligence service of

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Ontario and the Quebec research bureau on organized crime. In October, 1969, the name Criminal Intelligence Service of Canada was created.

In March, 1970, the Criminal Intelligence Service of Canada constitution and manual of procedure was formally adopted. The adoption of this constitution was truly a milestone. For the first time, Canadian law enforcement agencies had a formal base on which to develop a national system to fight organized crime. In this regard we are envied by the United States government because it has not been possible to do the same thing there. In 1970, there were five provincial bureaux in operation, namely the Quebec Research Bureau on organized crime, one in Manitoba, one in Saskatchewan, one in Ontario and one in Alberta. In 1971, three other provincial bureaux became operative in British Columbia, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

The Criminal Intelligence Service of Canada, central repository of criminal intelligence, is located at the RCMP headquarters in Ottawa within the national criminal intelligence branch, and the provincial bureaux are regional repositories. All repositories are designed to provide facilities for the collection, analysis and dissemination of criminal intelligence with the view effectively to combat organized crime in Canada. The CISC executive committee is comprised of 17 members representing major police forces in Canada. The idea is co-operation in the fight against organized crime. As of December 31, 1976, CISC regular membership consisted of 48 police agencies.

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, you will permit me to outline some examples of the type of co-operation which exists as a result of the approach to organized crime which has been adopted, an approach which I fully endorse. Eight RCMP members assisted the Quebec commission of inquiry into organized crime. The RCMP in Vancouver has joined the Vancouver city police intelligence unit in developing profiles on major criminals and criminal groups to assist joint forces' operations. This is commonly known as the Vancouver integrated intelligence unit. An investigation in Toronto into an international bank inspector fraud in 1976 resulted in the arrest of a major organized crime figure and 18 associates. In Montreal, an operation involving the RCMP and police forces in Quebec exposed the well-publicized "tainted meat operation". The Criminal Intelligence Service bureau, via the American authorities, have established a gun tracing program on behalf of all police departments in Canada to stem the flow of illegal firearms into this country.

Mr. Speaker, the concept of co-operation has produced effective results. A recent joint force operation in 1977 in Toronto which involved the RCMP, the Ontario provincial police and the metropolitan Toronto police resulted in more than 60 charges being laid against 48 persons. These persons are suspected of being crime figures and their associates. The charges included fraud, extortion, assault, counterfeiting and drugs. There are a number of examples of joint force operations in Montreal, some of which are still before the courts. As a result of one such operation, nine charges of fraud and conspiracy were laid against three persons. In another case, six