

Morality in Government

Mr. Diefenbaker: The right hon. gentleman says it was confidential and then in the house he related that he was in touch with me. What goes on? This is exactly the kind of insidious thing that the Prime Minister does. Indeed, all through the years he has been talking about destroying the leader of the Conservative party and on September 18, 1963, he said, "I think we have him about destroyed." I dislike bringing that up.

Mr. Favreau: Where are you quoting from?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I dislike bringing that up. All we have to do is look at this speech. We can read exactly what happened. Let us find out the order. On November 23, 1964, the hon. member for Yukon (Mr. Nielsen) made certain charges in the house. On November 24 Mr. Rouleau resigned. I do not know anything of the circumstances of that. Mention was made of it, but I seem to recall that the then minister of justice told the Prime Minister about the Rivard case back in September on an air trip from the Maritimes and he forgot about it. He put it in the outer recesses of his mind and forgot about it.

• (4:30 p.m.)

On November 25 the first terms of reference in connection with the Rivard matter were presented and on November 27 the revised terms of reference were presented to parliament. This is all coincidence. The Prime Minister would have us believe that. He was apparently away for a few days on a trip, but then on November 29 or November 30 a meeting took place attended by the Prime Minister, the then minister of justice, the Clerk of the Privy Council and the commissioner of the R.C.M.P.

On December 1 assistant commissioner Kelly, who is in charge of security, brought the report on the Munsinger case to the minister of justice and on December 2 the file went to the Prime Minister. He now finds himself in the difficult position of having to explain why this whole matter took 15 months to incubate. The Prime Minister says that the report was not on his desk and not in his possession but in the possession of the Clerk of the Privy Council. Let us just follow the course of events. It was on March 4, 1966, that the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Cardin) first mentioned the word "Monseignor" or "Munsinger" in this house. On January 31 and on February 28 the minister made oblique references to a case which occurred when the former government

was in power. Just a few days before, according to a statement made in the house on March 14 by the hon. member for Kamloops (Mr. Fulton), the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Favreau) sought an interview with that hon. member and warned him about the Munsinger case and its implications, which would apparently be brought to light if the Conservative opposition continued to press the government about the Spencer case.

Mr. Favreau: That is all wrong, of course.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The President of the Privy Council says this is all wrong. He is the last person in the world who should talk about wrong. All I wish to say in this connection is that it is a strange coincidence that just at that time, following the threat of blackmail made by the President of the Privy Council—described by the hon. member for Kamloops—things started to happen.

On March 9 the Minister of Justice in an interview with the *Globe and Mail* said that the Munsinger case was worse than the Profumo case. On March 10 he held a press conference and revealed information of a security nature affecting the reputation of the former government. That is a strange coincidence when one considers the course of events I have mentioned. This information was available but withheld to be used at a time when it would be most effective. On March 10 the Prime Minister said there has been a stigma placed on the Liberal party. The Minister of Justice gave us to understand by his attitude and his actions that they had something they were going to spring. The evidence about the meeting to which I referred indicates that the Prime Minister was aroused and disturbed and of course never thought he would be doing anything wrong to members of the house. He met with the Minister of Justice, the chairman of security panel and the commissioner of police. Today the Prime Minister avers that we must be very careful to say nothing against the R.C.M.P. I say that the Prime Minister endeavoured to use the R.C.M.P. as a political police force, which is something that will be resented by all Canadians.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Why were these four persons gathered together? They were not gathered together for the protection of the nation, they were not gathered together for