

Protection of Privacy

her view, I suppose, that because it happened 25 years ago it does not matter. Maybe she thinks that the Minister of Transport would not do in 1973 what he did 25 years ago when he was the leader of CNTU. Maybe she thinks that the Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) would not do in 1973 what he did at the time of the strike at Murdochville. I am not prepared to go along with the supposition of the hon. member for Louis-Hébert. If the Minister of Transport thinks what he did in Asbestos was wrong, and that the police should have had more right to bop him over the head, he ought to come in here and tell us so. And if the Prime Minister thinks that what he did at Murdochville was wrong, he ought to come in here and tell us.

● (1540)

Mr. Prud'homme: It was right then.

Mr. Orlikow: The hon. member says it was right then.

Mr. Prud'homme: And it is still the right thing today.

Mr. Orlikow: The hon. member does not have to tell me that. I agree that it was the right thing then, and it is the right thing now. But the hon. member ought to tell that to the hon. member for Louis-Hébert who said, and I tried to take it down exactly—I am sure she will correct me if I am wrong—that in her view whatever the police want to do in order to protect the public safety or in order to protect the public good is permissible. I want to say that I am not prepared to give anybody the right to do anything he or she wants. I am, however, prepared to let people, including the police, Crown prosecutors, the attorney general and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang), do everything which the law permits them to do.

The hon. member for Louis-Hébert gave an account of crimes which have taken place in the province of Quebec. Mr. Speaker, crimes take place in other parts of Canada. Those crimes in Quebec took place when we had no wiretapping laws. Those crimes took place when the police were permitted to wiretap because there was no law. Evidence was presented to the committee that in one year the RCMP were involved in over 600 wiretaps. There is no question that the Quebec Provincial Police and the Ontario Provincial Police are involved in wiretapping. I know that the Ontario Provincial Police have published some figures showing how many times they have been involved in wiretapping. I have no doubt in my mind that municipal police forces, including the city of Montreal police, have been involved in wiretapping. If wiretapping without any kind of controls would prevent crimes, as the hon. member for Louis-Hébert seemed to argue and in fact did argue then why have we had all the crimes? Why have we had all the robberies, the murders and all the rest? If there is organized crime in Montreal, if there is organized murder in Montreal, if there is organized gambling in Montreal, and if wiretapping could have prevented it, why has it not been prevented?

I want to pose a question which the hon. member for Louis-Hébert should think about. Why is it that in Quebec, which has more wiretapping than any other province, where the courts are the toughest in the sentences which they impose on people who are found guilty of murder, bank robberies, and that kind of crime, there is more crime than in other provinces? The law enforcement agencies

[Mr. Orlikow.]

and the courts have been very tough in Quebec. I suggest to the hon. member that rather than come here and rant about the need for unlimited wiretapping she address herself to the very serious question of why these things are taking place in Quebec more than in other provinces.

Mrs. Morin: The criminals are better organized.

Mr. Orlikow: I suggest to the hon. member that if these things take place in Quebec more than in other provinces, it is not because criminals are better organized but because of the social conditions in Quebec, because of the poverty in Quebec.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Orlikow: This is not a criticism, it is a statement of fact. The poverty and social conditions in Quebec have led to that kind of atmosphere.

Mr. Prud'homme: It is because Montreal is a big centre. You cannot have much crime in the rural districts of Saskatchewan.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I am not raising this point because I am critical of the people of Quebec or the governments of Quebec. I am simply saying to the hon. member that if she is concerned, as she should be, about the matters which she has raised she ought not to bring forth what purports to be a solution but in fact is a red herring. She ought not to bring forth simplistic, and what I consider to be stupid arguments which can have only one effect, to dissuade members like myself, who are inclined to vote for the bill in respect of many of its provisions, from voting for it if we gave her exaggerated arguments the attention she would like us to give them.

Mrs. Morin: I wonder if the hon. member would permit a question?

Mr. Orlikow: Certainly. Go Ahead.

Mrs. Morin: He just mentioned that there were exaggerations in my speech. I would like him to specify what those exaggerations were.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member wants to know what those exaggerations were, I refer her to that part of her speech in which she inferred that the only people who are concerned about the possibility that the police will be given authority which they can misuse, or which they might misuse, are people who are somehow sympathetic to the desires of criminals, or separatists, or revolutionaries, and so on. I suggest to her that the hon. member for Matane (De Bané), and others on the government side who have expressed reservations about the bill, could take the same exception that I have taken to the hon. member's exaggerations.

I want to try to look at this question in a rational, objective way. I admit that for me it is difficult to be objective. As a person who has always been concerned about civil liberties, the easiest thing for me to do would be to vote against the bill because in principle I am opposed to permitting wiretapping in any circumstances. But I am trying to face up to a situation as it exists in the 1970's. I am trying to face up to the fact we do have