

authorized by the training and development branch of the RCMP here in Ottawa.

It is incredible to think that all of this could have happened in light of the growing concern and awareness we have in this country. One thinks, for instance, of the investigations going on in the city of Toronto at the present time with respect to the methods by which the police obtain evidence for use in possible prosecutions. In light of that fact I was flabbergasted to discover that not only could a document such as this be obtained, but that the professor in question and his students at the University of Prince Edward Island were able to obtain from the RCMP in Prince Edward Island documentation to the effect that this particular booklet is still in common usage.

I had hoped to have by this afternoon—but unfortunately the mail service is not operating quite as efficiently as it might—an actual copy of the affidavit sworn by Professor Frederick P. Von Dreeger of the political science department of the University of Prince Edward Island.

In that affidavit Professor Von Dreeger says that on March 20 he had several conferences with Inspector M. R. De Kouchay of 'La' division, Charlottetown. On that date he was informed by Inspector De Kouchay that he had been in conference with Superintendent Moffatt of the training and development branch of headquarters, Ottawa, and he was advised that the said document was published for the use of the RCMP and, he said that document is used as a training manual in the subject area of interrogation procedures, and it was duly notarized. The affidavit to that effect is now in the hands of Mr. Alan Borowy of the Canadian Civil Liberties Union in Toronto.

● (1740)

This is not a situation where just one individual or a few police officers from time to time resort to techniques that would not be acceptable to the general public and would not stand up in a court of law.

Some people have suggested that in raising this matter yesterday I should not be surprised that these sort of techniques are advocated or practised and that, after all, sometimes unusual and rather bizarre methods must be resorted to in order to gain evidence for prosecution and conviction. I am quick to reply to such people that a basic principle of English law is that individuals are considered innocent until proven guilty, not the reverse. The latter seems to be an attitude taken with respect not only to the authorization and writing of this document but to its general approval and use by senior officers.

The minister has not appeared so I am not sure that he has a legitimate explanation for what has taken place. I do not think it is just or right that this House should adjourn until April 6 or 7 not knowing whether, even at that time, the minister will be present. In the next ten days or two weeks hundreds of people will be interrogated or questioned. This is the normal and daily procedure of our national police forces. When any individual in this country now hears a knock at the door, or is stopped on the highway, or questioned on the street corner, or invited by telephone to come to the police station for a discussion or, even more sinister perhaps, an interrogation, will he go with the apprehension that the kind of techniques and attitudes outlined in this booklet are going to be used?

Easter Adjournment

That is a situation which many Canadians will face unless there is a complete clarification of the issue.

I would hope that it is not possible for us to accept the adjournment of this House at this time until either the minister or the government House leader—

An hon. Member: Speak for yourself.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I hope I am not just speaking for myself. If the hon. member feels that way, I feel sorry for him. It seems to me that means he is happy to throw away many of the basic civil liberties we have come to cherish in this country, and for which we fought two world wars in this century. If the hon. member is one who takes the attitude that this is justifiable and that the public is prepared to accept it, I hope he will stand and debate the matter. I hope he will read the document and come into this House, later today or tomorrow, and tell us that this is the kind of procedure he would expect the RCMP to exercise in their interrogation techniques. I would think that the hon. member, and others who share his view, would be more than surprised by the reaction of Canadians generally who do not expect from the RCMP the kind of intimidation, manipulation and brainwashing that are spelled out very clearly in this document.

I do not apologize for raising this issue because I think it is a fundamental and crucial one, and without a full explanation from the Solicitor General or the government House leader I do not think the Canadian people would find it acceptable that we should go home for an Easter break when a matter of such great consequence is before us. This affects the civil liberties of every individual in the country, and more especially those who in the course of the next week or two may find themselves being interrogated not only by the RCMP but also, since they often set standards for the rest of the country, by other police forces as well. The implication of acceptance of this document by the government would open the door to all kinds of mischief to be directed toward a person's civil, political and legal rights.

I think it is the responsibility of the government House leader, or someone representing the Solicitor General, to give clarification and an assurance to this House that this document will be withdrawn forthwith. There should also be an assurance that there will be an investigation of the training program used with regard to interrogation techniques. As was stated in the press release issued by the RCMP this afternoon, this document is merely part of a course. There is apparently an accompanying lecture. The document is bad enough, but one can imagine the lecture! I would hope we would not adjourn until the government House leader is able to give some kind of clarifying statement.

I think it is also important to remember that an undertaking was given to this House by the Solicitor General. Members may recall this, but I will repeat the exchange that took place between the minister and myself in this House yesterday afternoon. I asked the Solicitor General the following question:

... regarding the publication today by "The Cadre", a newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island, of the information that a booklet on interrogation techniques of the RCMP, written by Chief Inspector A. R. Roberts—