

an agreement of this kind, but will spend the necessary funds to maintain a local police force. I hope that the democratic control of the police forces of our country will remain with our municipal councils, and not be centred in the parliament buildings at Ottawa. One of the strongest means of protection against the insidious drift towards centralization and tyranny is local control of the police forces. The whole of Russia was subjugated through a successful attack upon the police of Leningrad: when the police there revolted and transferred to the revolutionists the arms they required, the present dictatorship of Russia was set up. I am not anticipating anything of that kind in Canada, but I do say that a centralized police force located in the city of Ottawa is much more amenable to such a *coup* than are, say, a thousand police forces in the municipalities throughout our country.

Provinces which have decided to dispense with their own police forces must be presumed to know what they want, so I have no intention at all of voting against this appropriation of \$2 million. But I think it has been worthwhile to sound at least this note of warning and to express the hope that my own province of Ontario will refrain from placing itself under the jurisdiction of a centralized police force.

Hon. Thomas Reid: Honourable members, it was not my intention to say anything in this debate, but the remarks of the senator who has just spoken prompt me to point out that the people of British Columbia are not entirely in agreement with what is being done. Many of them feel that the arrangement was "put over" by the powers that be at Victoria. I took occasion to publicly warn every municipality in British Columbia to hang on to its police force, pointing out that there would be some danger in having control centralized at Ottawa, three thousand miles away.

What I am wondering is, who made the approach to have the change brought about? In the light of information gained during many sessions spent in Ottawa, I believe the approach came from the authorities here, who are trying their best to take over the police in every province. It is not the province that has appealed to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to have itself included within their jurisdiction. Oh, no! But certain authorities here who are desirous of exercising greater control have for the past ten years at least been proposing to the various Attorneys General that provincial police be transferred to the R.C.M.P.

In my province although there has been an occasional statement as to what the cost of the new service will be, the agreement between the provinces and the R.C.M.P. has

never been made widely public. So I say to the honourable leader (Hon. Mr. Robertson) that I hope it will be possible to have some questions answered in committee. I agree with and commend the remarks made by the senator from Toronto Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck).

Hon. Felix P. Quinn: Honourable senators, I disagree with the last two speakers. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is recognized as the greatest police force in the world. No province that has its police work done by the R.C.M.P. has cause to regret the arrangement.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Quinn: I congratulate the people of Newfoundland and of British Columbia upon inviting the R.C.M.P. to take charge of the policing of those provinces. For some years now our province of Nova Scotia has been policed by the R.C.M.P., and we never before had such efficiency. Members of the force are educated, equipped and organized to deal with all classes of criminals, and they can do this work better than any provincial police force. With all due respect to the provincial police of Ontario, of British Columbia or any other province, I consider the R.C.M.P. to be the best police force that we could possibly get, and I should like to see it functioning in every province of Canada.

Hon. Gordon B. Isnor: Honourable senators—

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: If I may have the indulgence—

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: The honourable gentleman from Halifax-Dartmouth (Mr. Isnor) has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: Honourable senators, I have no objection if the senator from Toronto Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck) desires to make any observation bearing on his former remarks.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: I only wish to point out that I have voiced no criticism of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As a matter of fact, I hold the force in the highest regard.

Hon. Mr. Reid: So do I.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: Honourable senators, I hesitate to take part in this debate, particularly in view of the eloquent remarks made by the senators from Churchill (Hon. Mr. Crerar) and Toronto Trinity (Hon. Mr. Roebuck). I say that with all due respect to others who have spoken. I wish to deal briefly with the principle of the bill and the effect of one or two clauses upon the section of the country from which I come.