

Supply—Justice

defence industry working on a defence contract. The instruction would be received from the Department of Defence Production.

Mr. Ellis: I understand that under those circumstances an investigation might be commenced, but I am thinking of employees apart from employees working in defence industries. I am thinking in more general terms and I am wondering who undertakes the initiative or on whose instructions and recommendations are the R.C.M.P. empowered or instructed to carry on an investigation of any individual.

Mr. Fulton: I will ask the commissioner. If the Royal Canadian Mounted Police receive information which on the face of it appears to have any semblance of reliability and to contain in it anything of a serious nature with regard to the security of the state in so far as it concerns an individual, then they would investigate as a result of the receipt of that information. But, as I say, it must be information which on the face of it, has some degree of reliability and which on the face of it discloses something of concern so far as the interests of the state are concerned.

Mr. Ellis: I would gather that information forthcoming in a letter from an individual somewhere might be grounds for investigation.

Mr. Fulton: I do not suppose much attention is paid to anonymous letters. I do not suppose they are completely disregarded but they would not be treated very seriously. It is difficult to categorize the exact sort of information that might give rise to an investigation beyond the general terms which I have tried to describe.

Mr. Herridge: I have listened to this debate with great interest. I think the minister hit the nail on the head when he said that in many of these things there must be a difference between assessment of information in another country and the assessment we would give the same information. Some two or three years ago a very respectable constituent of mine—in fact, the great majority of my constituents are very respectable—was refused admission to the United States. I brought the matter to the attention of the minister's predecessor, it was investigated and later this gentleman was allowed to go to the United States. I remember what the minister told me at that time. He said that unfortunately these people on the other side often make a completely different assessment of the information than that which would be made in Canada. I think it is necessary to reconsider the procedure so that information is given having in view the fact that some

[Mr. Fulton.]

things which are dangerous from their point of view are considered to be legal in Canada.

Mr. Fulton: I am glad the hon. gentleman raised that matter again. I may have been a little bit too general when I said we would not make any assessment of information. I am told that if we were reporting on an organization, for instance, we might give our assessment of the character of the organization so that they on their side could make an intelligent assessment of what membership in or connection with that organization meant. We do not just send them a factual report with no comment.

Mr. Fisher: What about the prospect of dividing or separating the security aspect of the work of the R.C.M.P. and giving it to a genuine Canadian counter-espionage security police, if you want to separate it from this other organization which has such activities as musical rides?

Mr. Fulton: In fairness I think I must say at once that the musical ride is an infinitesimally small fraction of the work of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in comparison with the straight police work of that force which is nation-wide and which is by and large carried on at a high standard of efficiency.

However, to deal with the substance of the hon. gentleman's question, may I say that I have not really given much thought to it. We have in mind a revision of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act. I should be glad to have a good look at it at the time when we are reviewing the act in order to see whether any good purpose would be served by separating the functions. The hon. gentleman will understand that there is a separate division which carries on the type of work we have been discussing and specialization within that division is being increased all the time. However, I should be glad to have a look at the matter and to give further consideration to whether it would serve a good purpose.

Mr. Peters: I should like to ask the minister a question about a hypothetical case because I do not want to mention any names. As you know, on many occasions when delegations have been going to the United States for conferences, particularly from unions, people have been questioned as to their right to go. If a person is questioned and is not allowed a border crossing pass has he any right to go to the federal government, or however you go about these matters, to get these particular files that were kept on him presented in court and defend his case?

Mr. Fulton: I think the answer to my hon. friends question is that this information, in