

Security Intelligence Service

Mr. Fraser:—with great respect I say he is wrong. The Hon. Member for Skeena is saying exactly what I said a couple of hours ago in this Chamber. The fact is that the media of the country are asleep at the switch on this Bill. They do not want to be told that. There is only one member of the several hundred person Press Gallery of Canada in the Press Gallery right now.

A couple of days ago this Bill was called by Alan Borovoy, general counsel to the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, hardly a left-wing twit or some kind of screwball nitwit, "one of the greatest threats to civil liberties Canada has seen for many years". That got reported; Lord knows how, but it got reported. The Hon. Member for Skeena is not in the same Party as I am, but he talked about his ancestors fighting for the liberties we have had for over 300 years. So did mine. We came here in 1759 with the Scottish Regiment that was forced to enlist because we were pushed out of our Highland home. All those years we were loyal to the flag and to the Crown of this country. My friend from Skeena is right when he talks about the traditions that are bound up in the principles of this Bill. I am fed up to the teeth with this limp-wristed, hand-wringing, sanctimonious lecturing and preaching we have been getting from the Government side and some kind of vacuous minded editorial writers.

● (1310)

What is all this talk about Bill C-9 being debated endlessly? They go back to the Mackenzie Commission in 1969, the 1977 revelation of wrongdoing in the late sixties and early seventies, the McDonald Commission, Bill C-157 and the Senate committee. They say it has all been settled.

Where are these twits who say it has all been settled? Who are these people who comment like that, who cannot understand that, under our system of government, when you pass a piece of legislation the words rule you? It is the words in front of us now in Bill C-9, not in Bill C-157, the McDonald report or the Mackenzie report. It is these words that rule us. When somebody like Alan Borovoy can say that this Bill is the greatest threat to civil liberties this country has ever seen, somebody in the country should know about it.

I am fed up with the fact that all the reporting has been about a filibuster in the committee or in the House. What is wrong that these people cannot understand why we are indignant? I will tell you why. This Bill could have been and should have been a better Bill. The Government absolutely refused to accept a single amendment. The only amendment we got through committee, which would give to the review committee the right to look at Cabinet documents relating to the security service, went through because the Chairman of the committee, a Liberal, the Hon. Member for Rosemont (Mr. Lachance), a damn good Member, voted with the Opposition. We got it through, and what does the Solicitor General do? He has an amendment, that he is going to present, wiping out the only thing we got in committee. That is what they are doing.

The media of this country, the several hundred people who sit around here and criticize us for the price of food in the

restaurant or the cost of the rug or MPs who did not pay their bills on time, all go to the restaurant. That is probably where half of them are right now instead of being here. I do not care whether every one of them campaigns against me in the next election. In the last couple of days on this issue the media have been a disgrace to a free country. As I said earlier, one day they will be writing editorials when something goes wrong because the proper amendments were not put in. It is absolutely appalling. I do not know how many deans of journalism there are, but this ought to be compulsory reading for every one of their students from now on. The media have absolutely copped out on this. I do not care whether they like me for saying it. The fact is that the Canadian public does not realize that the only time these guys and women come in here is during Question Period when you have the show. The rest of the time they do not cover this stuff. It is no good their coming now and saying "Well, we covered it months ago, we wrote some in-depth articles some months ago".

The issue is the fact that Canadians came to committee with suggestions for change, not suggestions to destroy the Bill, not suggestions to destroy the security service, not suggestions saying that we should not have lawful mandates that constrain, regulate and overview the security service. Canadians said the wording is faulty, it can be better. There are dangers in the loose wording that is there and in some of the concepts. What is appalling is that since the day we got into second reading debate, months ago, the Government has had no intention of accepting any amendments, nothing. That is what should be in the headlines of every paper.

As for John Turner and his reform Liberals, as I said earlier, it is not the old deal but it is the old deal writ large. I have to say one other thing about Mr. Turner, who is supposed to be a lawyer. This is the guy who has never told us why he brought in the War Measures Act. Once upon a time when I was 20 and Mr. Turner was in his mid-fifties I would have been impressed, but I am not anymore. I say in conclusion, knowing that nothing has changed, that everybody ought to be asked: Do you really want to buy a used government from this fellow?

Mr. Kaplan: Mr. Speaker, I am very reluctant to participate in the debate, given its tenor. I will explain in a moment. I cannot refrain from rising to comment on some of what I just heard. I totally reject the superiority that Members opposite want to draw from the fact that their ancestors came to this country so many generations before mine. I think I am just as good a Canadian as they are whether my ancestors did or did not come here in the 1700s, as the Member for Vancouver South—

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There was absolutely no reference by myself or by the Hon. Member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser)—and I sat here during the whole speech—to the period of time in which the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) came to Canada. He is trying to abuse the process of debate.