

witnesses he questioned, what was his mandate, and ultimately what his findings were.

We know very well that during this period of time the CIA was active, not only in Chile in attempting to overthrow the Allende government, ultimately successfully in 1973, but as well in Greece and in Central America, and in 1975 in Australia, in attempting to destabilize the labour government of Gough Whitlam. To those who suggest that the CIA would not be involved in Canada, I point out that indeed they were very heavily involved at that time in a number of countries including Australia, a fellow member of the Commonwealth.

● (2225)

We recently learned during the trial in the province of Quebec of an RCMP officer arising from the McDonald commission report that an officer of the RCMP alleged that some \$350,000 had been funnelled by what he called a friendly nation into the independence movement in the province of Quebec. This certainly confirms the allegations which were made back in 1976 and recently repeated by Mr. Meier. In view of the seriousness of these allegations and the obvious threat these allegations, if substantiated, would pose to the sovereignty of Canada, I urge that the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs be given a reference to examine all aspects of CIA involvement in Canada to determine whether indeed the CIA has been operating in Canada, either with or without the co-operation of the RCMP security service, and that in that investigation the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs have the power to examine, in camera where necessary, all witnesses who wish to give evidence on this important subject.

In closing, I emphasize that we are dealing here with a very serious matter. We are dealing with the right of Canada to control its own domestic affairs without outside interference. We are dealing with the very democratic process in Canada and the right of Canadians to the assurance that the CIA has not in any way attempted to subvert that very important process. I look forward to the remarks of the parliamentary secretary on behalf of the Solicitor General and, hopefully, to his assurance that indeed the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs will have an opportunity to study this very serious question.

Adjournment Debate

Mr. David Smith (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I am going to disappoint my hon. friend.

Allegations have been made about CIA activities in Canada, raised in petitions by John Herbert Meier. The hon. member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) is apparently prepared to give weight to these allegations. The government is not, because it is satisfied that these allegations, which were made in the past and investigated in the past by the security service of the RCMP and, as well, on behalf of the government by counsel retained by the PMO, do not merit credence.

I might just say as an aside that I am surprised at the remark made by the hon. member with regard to the qualifications of Mr. Pierre Genest. I would have thought that as the justice critic for his party the hon. member would know that Mr. Genest is one of the most outstanding counsel in Canada.

It should be borne in mind by the House that sensational allegations are easy to make, and it would be very unwise to take seriously all allegations just because they are sensational.

The hon. member claimed recently that he had independent evidence which would corroborate what Mr. Meier said. I believe he has a duty to present it before any further investigation is justified. Mr. Meier has a criminal record, which he obtained for falsifying evidence in the United States. He has in the past jumped bail, and he is appealing extradition to the United States, where he is charged with murder.

The allegations which had any substance at all have been investigated in the past and found not worthy of belief. It would not be fair to the individuals purportedly implicated in these allegations, which have no substance, to hold a public inquiry based on these allegations.

Unless the hon. member is prepared to come clean with the House and give the facts which he believes support the allegations, he should not expect any further consideration of these particular allegations.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock.

At 10.29 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.