

Supply—Justice

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Chairman, I realize that another member has the floor, but if he would yield the floor and allow me merely to ask a question it might assist the hon. member in this debate.

Yesterday I asked the Minister of Justice whether when we were dealing with these estimates, because these are the old estimates, we could deal with all those matters that came within his jurisdiction. I have read what the minister said but we on this side of the chamber are in a quandary still because there seems to be some divisive confusion—I mean that in a nice way—in this respect. Because of the changes in the minister's department, can we now discuss all three branches of the department under these estimates?

Mr. Cardin: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Woolliams: That is what we want to clear up.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Chairman, while we were considering the estimates of the Department of Justice, I noted yesterday that the debate took a rather strange turn after the statement made by the Prime Minister about the Spencer case in Vancouver.

I do not really intend to go into that matter. It is a rather special case. I heard the argument made by the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams), but all the evidence seemed based on newspaper articles. If that is enough to make a case stick, then I could spend half an hour reading newspaper articles to come to the conclusion that some Conservatives should be in a psychiatric ward. With newspaper articles one can prove anything. I also heard, on that matter, the statements made by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas), which had some rather pathetic overtones. I think that this man lived in his province. I wonder if efforts were made to meet him, to see him personally. There is something shameful about that matter.

● (3:50 p.m.)

The hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas) took the trouble of saying he had not met him but that he knew the member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) who knew Spencer, a little in the style of the man who saw the man who saw the bear; but there again that is not first hand information.

[*The Chairman.*]

In any event before committing ourselves in this connection, we would prefer additional information, provided of course the government had any to give. We would prefer to await further developments.

There is another point I would like to mention and draw to the attention of the Minister of Justice. During the last general election, it was alleged that the former member for Quebec-Montmorency had gone into a Montreal restaurant with two other individuals, purported to be R.C.M.P. officers, in order to extort from the owner affidavits and statements to the effect that a wealthy Newfoundland manufacturer had tried to bribe certain members of parliament.

At that time, I got in touch with the Minister of Justice and asked him whether it was a fact that two individuals had tried, under false representations or with R.C.M.P. identification cards, to obtain affidavits or statements from a Montreal restaurant owner.

I think that the minister made an investigation; I have not had the opportunity since then to ask him if he had any information to give us, but I would like to know if it is true that one of the two individuals with Dr. Marcoux in a restaurant was a former executive secretary of a former Conservative minister—it would be a former minister of justice—who would have had in his possession a card identifying him as a member of the R.C.M.P., although not a member of the R.C.M.P., and who would have used that card to get statements from a restaurant owner in Montreal, under false representations?

That is an answer I would like to get from the minister. Did he make an investigation in that case? Is it true that two individuals pretended to be members of the R.C.M.P., whereas they had no right to do that, since they were not members of the R.C.M.P.?

Second, was Dr. Marcoux present when those individuals appeared? We suspect that he was present. At that time, was he party to those false representations?

Could the minister also tell us how it is that an individual, a former executive secretary of a former Conservative minister of justice, had an R.C.M.P. identification card? Where did he get it? Who had given it to him? With whose collusion did he manage to have such a card?

Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Justice will agree with me that if anyone can now obtain cards of the R.C.M.P.—which is nevertheless a respectable police corps—and can with the influence of a member of this police corps,