

*Morality in Government*

occasions when the Minister of Justice was making the most irresponsible statements last March. Sir, the Borgias used to poison their political adversaries. Today what has been done in this case has been to poison the arteries of parliaments probity.

The Prime Minister's speech was an alibi of tortured guilt. He was attempting to explain the unexplainable. The words he used bear no resemblance to the evidence given before the commission by the R.C.M.P. commissioner. It is very obvious that throughout the picture the Prime Minister was in the wings. The Minister of Justice struck. They decided on a policy of smear and run and then appointed a commission which the Prime Minister says protects the rights of individuals. I shall deal with that. It was not just a thing of the moment; it was not spontaneously aroused or provoked. It was a deliberate and planned campaign to destroy by inference, to befoul and besmirch by innuendo and thus bring about the destruction of political opponents.

The Prime Minister said he told me about this matter in the summer of 1964. He is wrong. No reference was made to it by the Prime Minister until I was ill, I think in February, 1965, when he wrote me. Oh, yes, there was a letter, but I do not have a copy.

**Mr. Pearson:** The letter was dated December 4, 1964.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I do not care what the date was.

**Mr. Starr:** That does not mean you mailed it.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The Prime Minister has forgotten. He knows that when it was delivered to me it was delivered to my home by a secret messenger.

**Mr. Pearson:** The Leader of the Opposition called on me on December 10 and talked about the letter.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Now we are going to get truth. I went to see the Prime Minister. He said he was going to get to the bottom of something. He did not indicate what it was but it was apparently this case. I said, "Go ahead, carry on". He said, "I have looked it over and there is no suggestion of any breach of security so let us forget about it." I never heard from him from that date until the matter was used. He said to me he had to write the letter because he was a diplomat. I

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

say the letter was written by a lawyer, and the identification and the words of that letter owed their paternity to the former minister of justice. I said at the time, "If you want to go into these things, let us go into them." He said, "Let us forget about it; there was no breach of security." I went on to say that some of the hon. gentlemen sitting opposite might be interested. He said, "You know we do have troubles with our cabinet ministers". He knew what he was talking about.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a question of privilege. The right hon. gentleman has stated that I sent him a letter which he received in February, 1965, and that he must have discussed it with me afterwards. I have a copy of a letter which was delivered to him and it is dated December 4, 1964. He called my office and discussed it and the security aspects on December 10, 1964.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** The Prime Minister, who through the years has followed a course of endeavouring to bulldoze, brickbat and put fear into one's heart—when I discussed the matter with him said, "Forget about it". That is what he said. He never mentioned the matter again until it came up in the house. That is the old, old stunt of trying by underhanded means to put fear into the hearts of political opponents. That is what he did; yet he says he did not know anything about the Munsinger case. When the present Minister of Justice held this famous press conference there was an official from the Prime Minister's office present and a tape recorder from the Prime Minister's office. What was that for? Was that just prescience on the part of one of the employees or was it in fact with the knowledge of the Prime Minister?

I am going to deal with the sequence of events, because I am surprised to find the Prime Minister denying the record.

**Mr. Pearson:** On a question of privilege—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Will the right hon. the Prime Minister take his seat?

**Mr. Pearson:** On a question of privilege, the right hon. gentleman has referred and I have referred to a particular letter marked "confidential" from one privy councillor to another. Would he agree to have the confidential character of the letter removed so that the letter could be tabled and made public?