

Easter Adjournment

this afternoon, or questioned the Solicitor General about yesterday afternoon. That was not a document which simply said that in the course of investigation one does not terminate a conversation because other information may be forthcoming. This is a suggested list of something like fifty different techniques, many of which are described by the author himself as brainwashing, techniques which, as indicated in the quotation, are in many ways a complete distortion of people, and certainly the labelling of people by their size or their shapes to me is so degrading as to be almost nonsensical.

This anonymous spokesman then went on to say, and I quote:

... the manual is used as part of a course offered at RCMP N Division in Ottawa's Rockcliffe area but does not represent official policy.

That will have to be explained to me, Mr. Speaker. I do not know how there can be a course offered at one of the main training divisions here in Ottawa, "N" Division, which does not represent official policy. It has already been referred to by a spokesman on behalf of the force. The cover page of this document very clearly shows the crest of the RCMP, and underneath it is written "*Main-tains le Droit*" so there is no doubt. The fact that this document came into my possession, not here in Ottawa but as far afield as Prince Edward Island, would be the clearest indication possible that it is in wide circulation, and if this anonymous spokesman has indicated that it is used for training officers not just locally, but from all across the country, I just do not understand how it can be that this is not, to use the spokesman's language, official policy.

Obviously the minister may not be able to explain it either. If he were able to explain it, I assume he would have been in his place this afternoon. He would have been prepared either to speak to the matter on motions or at least to answer questions which hon. members on this side would have put to him. Neither took place, and we are faced with this most unhappy situation of leaving a considerable cloud over the functioning and procedures of the RCMP.

We already have had a fair bit of discussion in this House in the past couple of days about secrecy in government. There has been a certain amount of willingness on the part of the ministry to try to overcome the structural problems with regard to undue secrecy, but this is not just a question of secrecy. This is a question of recommended practice for the force all across the country, and in that light I think there is very great need for the fullest possible explanation.

I will go on to quote from this unnamed spokesman:

"It is used by the RCMP in a course offered to senior investigators with between five and fifteen years of service and does not represent RCMP policy," the spokesman said.

Again he emphasizes that it does not represent policy even though this is used as a manual in the training of senior investigators all across the country. In the official statement the RCMP said of the document—and I am not quoting this exactly because I think there may be something missing from the reprint of it from the wire service—that there was a lecture which usually accompanied the document. I hope that we will not only get the full

[Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).]

tabling of this document and an explanation of it by the minister, but some explanation as to the kind of lecture which accompanied this document. If there is a lecture which accompanies it, I shudder to think of the kind of training, the kind of suggestions, the kind of methods used by the RCMP above and beyond this shocking document we have before us this afternoon.

Mr. Peters: Maybe we should have a display of the artifacts used.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I think that may be quite useful. There is no reference to it having been mentioned, but it is interesting that the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) should raise it because there is mention made of some of the more ghastly—if I can use that word—torture methods adopted by other countries and other police forces, but it does mention the fact that it does not recommend these. I cannot say what kind of suggestions or instructions are being given by the lecturer himself. The RCMP spokesman said, however, and I quote:

"It is part of the broader body of literature on the subject of interrogation techniques which is only one segment of the entire course which includes other topics . . ."

And the other topics are apparently human behaviour, the Canada Evidence Act—I wonder how seriously they grapple with the Canada Evidence Act in light of the manual we have before us—conspiracy, sexually motivated crime and crime scene investigations.

Certainly, if they are dealing in other ways with sexually motivated crime, given the kind of attitudes, stereotypes and concepts in this document about those who have either been victims of or possible suspects with regard to sex offences, I shudder to think of the attitudes and the understanding being conveyed in this advanced course to senior investigators here in 'N' division, Ottawa.

It may well be that we have really just taken the lid off Pandora's box, and I do not mean to make a pun by that because I think we are looking at a very serious situation with respect to the just and sensible training procedures being used for senior investigators in this country.

Mr. Peters: I didn't know that was attached to the RCMP.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): I will go on:

"For this course as in many other courses offered by the RCMP, resource people from various fields such as lawyers, psychiatrists, judges and social scientists in the role of instructor present a variety of views."

That is the concluding part of this particular document. The press release goes on to say:

The RCMP spokesman said copies of the manual were handed out to students as "this was easier than taking notes of a lecture." He said he did not know how many investigators had taken the course.

We have apparently something which has grown up without much serious questioning of a document which may have started innocently enough, and I do not know whether I should use the word "innocent" to describe this document. It has found itself consolidated into a booklet entitled "Interrogation Techniques" by Chief Inspector A. R. Roberts of the Calgary city police, and it is issued and