

*Supply—Justice*

security risks of that nature. I think that this force has been built up by some of the officials—

**Mr. Fulton:** Vote against the item and let us get on with it.

**Mr. Peters:** I think some of these forces have been built up by that department and now it is growing beyond all proportion. I understand that we are now enlarging the headquarters of the R.C.M.P. I might suggest we are probably enlarging it because what the minister promised a year or two ago did not come to pass and will not come to pass, namely his statement that if these files proved inactive for a period of years—and I think at that time he mentioned the period of five years—they would be destroyed.

**Mr. Fulton:** Mr. Chairman, I am not aware that I made any such promise. Before my hon. friend makes such statements of a general scattered nature I think he should turn up *Hansard* and give us the reference. If he has a specific undertaking in mind that he wants to deal with I shall be glad if he will refer me to it and I will deal with it, but I do not accept general allegations of that kind.

**Mr. Peters:** I did not know this matter was going to be raised again and therefore I have not the reference in *Hansard*. It happened the first session I was here, in 1957. I do not say the minister gave the assurance that those files would be destroyed; I think he said at that time his officials informed him that if they were inactive for a period of time—if I remember rightly, it was a period of something like five years—they would be disposed of. I cannot speak from personal knowledge either as to whether they have been or not; I have not been across the border for a number of years and I do not know. I cannot speak from personal knowledge that I have a file at the border point, that this information has been given to the United States immigration authorities or the Canadian immigration authorities because I have not been there recently.

If the minister wishes to carry on this type of department, if this is going to be done, then the next time the minister's estimates come up we are going to have to personally mention some of these files, and I am not sure that that is advantageous. If the minister is going to continue in this way, then we shall have to produce the names of some of these secret service agents. I am quite sure we can find out who some of them are who are operating in the Kirkland Lake and Timmins areas. I do not think it will be too difficult to find out the names of some of those people. If we want the names and information on what they are doing and who they

investigate, what kind of investigations they carry on, and so on, I think that because of the connection that some of us have with municipal police and municipal authorities we can obtain that information, and I think this will eliminate their usefulness in those areas.

If this is what the minister wishes to do, if he wishes definite proof each time of these things, then I think we can probably get it. I suggest that we may be able to get some of these files from their offices. I think we may even be able to do that if we are going to have to play with the Department of Justice, or it is going to carry on activities against members of parliament and others. Maybe it is time to start a little private investigation of our own. We have some connections, and I think they will give us some information on some of these matters. I think the time has come for us to quit chasing after this political dilemma.

**Mr. Fulton:** So do I.

**Mr. Peters:** We should cease thinking that everybody who has ever said anything in public is a subversive, anybody who has ever attended a meeting held by the communists, the fascists or practically anybody else, is a subversive. It might be interesting to the committee to know that I am informed that the leader of the former minister of justice was also investigated not so very long ago when he was premier of Ontario, by a man whom he appointed as his security officer in the province of Ontario for the department of highways. It seems that at one time or another he had attended a meeting and therefore, I presume, would be suspect. The same gentleman informed me that he also had checked his attorney general at that time who was a member of the same party and that he had a file also because he had committed an indiscretion in younger days and had attended a meeting that was held by what would be considered to be a front organization.

I was informed by the commissioner of the R.C.M.P. a number of years ago of some of the facts that were in my own particular file. I do not think there is any secret as to what they were. I was going to a veterans school under the veterans university extension grants. I became president of a council in that school and we had a number of difficulties with the government of the day. We objected for one thing as a council to the food we were getting. We circulated a petition that came to the House of Commons and some objection was raised to that, but when it ended up in my file, according to the information from the commissioner of that day, I was considered to be a rabble rouser to be watched.