

*Morality in Government*

Mr. Dinsdale was back in the house yesterday with a long-winded self-justification involving the amnesty granted Chinese Canadians who had infringed immigration regulations.

In fact, his letter was similar to ones that 99 out of 100 M.P.'s write for their constituents.

An outraged Douglas Fisher (N.D.P.—Port Arthur) moved to block any further snooping into government files and planting of embarrassing questions.

Back in Brandon Buddy Leeds probably wondered what had caused him to become a subject of parliamentary debate for two successive days.

And students of Confucius began searching his sayings to see whether he had ever linked the black on the kettle with the dirt that was dug.

He did say: "High moral conduct along the Golden Mean is indeed supreme form of such conduct. For a long time, however, few among the people have been capable of it."

The point I want to raise, Mr. Speaker, is the reference Mr. Phillips made at the start of his article when he said:

Somewhere in the Liberal administration a decision was made to punish Mr. Dinsdale for his effrontery.

I also want to point out that it went much further than myself because the then minister of justice in his personal attack on me said:

There have been other cases. There have been a few, quite a few.

This leads up to the present situation. We wondered who had initiated the witch hunt, as I have referred to it from time to time in the house. We wondered how the backbenchers in the Liberal party were able to get hold of information not only concerning myself but others. I received a clue when the hon. member for Hamilton West in defence of his action, as recorded at page 11,962 of *Hansard* for March 4, 1965, said:

I wish to state that my interest was not directed specifically toward the Chinese immigration problem—

I think that is true.

—and I have very many friends of Chinese origin in my constituency and in other areas—but was raised because of certain information I had received and because of certain pious statements which were made by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris. I assure the hon. member that there was no intention on my part to create any—

● (5:50 p.m.)

He was interrupted by laughter at that point. Obviously the house was not convinced that the hon. member was making a legitimate point, but he said it was because of certain information he had received.

In the intervening months we have wondered what the source of that information might be. It now would appear—and this is the basis of the amendment before the house—that it was the Prime Minister himself

who instigated what can only be described as a witch hunt in requesting, as has been revealed, confidential information from R.C.M.P. files going back over a period of some ten years. It would appear that this was a deliberate act. At the time of the accusation against me the then hon. member for Port Arthur, Mr. Fisher, was almost persuaded to move the same motion which we have before the house this afternoon.

If the institution of parliament is going to be preserved, I think it is high time some action is taken on this subject. We have had since that time a book written by Mr. Richard Gwyn, a member of the press gallery, entitled "The Shape of Scandal". In that book Mr. Gwyn has many interesting observations to make in respect of the scandals which emerged during 1964, and obviously it would seem that it was the spirit of revenge which gave rise to the witch hunt under way at the present time.

One passage which I think is significant is found on page 157 of the book, "The Shape of Scandal". It reads as follows:

Unlike Diefenbaker, who served as a lightning rod for all criticisms of his government, Pearson's style has been to shift blame away from his own office.

I think that was meant to be an apology for the present Prime Minister. I think it is most revealing, however, in the light of the information which just has come to hand. I feel, on the basis of the evidence I have endeavoured to put before the house this afternoon, that what has taken place in this parliament over the past several months is not designed to encourage the progress of the new politics which has been piously referred to from time to time by members of the opposition, and I use the word "piously" advisedly.

**Mr. Starr:** You mean by the members of the government.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Yes, members of the administration. I feel that the whole strategy began in the year 1962 with an attack led by the Prime Minister and reported in the *Toronto Star* of September 19, 1962, under the heading "Won't Ease All-Out Attack Until P.C.s Fall—Pearson". The writer on this occasion was Mr. Hyman Solomon. His article reads as follows:

Liberal leader Lester Pearson last night began an all-out, pre-parliament attack on Prime Minister Diefenbaker and promised his attack would not cease until it tumbled the Conservative government.

The Liberal leader flayed Mr. Diefenbaker for his "deplorable display" at the London Commonwealth meeting, and promised to introduce a vote