

Privilege—Mr. S. J. Robinson

time. As I said in the justice committee, and as I believe to the present, although I am not certain, the warden was present. I understood he was present. I view him, having met him and interviewed him, as an honest and independent person in such a situation. I believe my friend is of the same opinion, and perhaps that is common ground between us.

I must state that I knew about the handcuffing, but there has been an attempt to create the impression that this is a revelation. However, I indicated to the justice committee that these people were handcuffed and that was a totally legitimate procedure in those circumstances.

I want to come now to the beatings and the macings. Doctors both inside and, I believe, outside the institution examined inmates following this incident. The board interviewed them as well. Although the statements which my friend read are accurate, and members of the House will have a chance to read them for themselves, the hon. member read only half of each paragraph, for example, when the hon. member said 12 inmates were interviewed and nine complained of having been maced, kicked or clubbed in the hands and one complained of having been maced only, and two of having been maced or struck with a night stick. I knew about those allegations, as did my hon. friend, but I indicated to the committee that I believed revenge-torture had not taken place. I shall now read from the same report which my hon. friend relies upon, although he left this part out. It states:

None of the fourteen inmates suffered any serious physical injuries. There were no observations made by medical staff of any injuries at all to the top of the hands, which would have been the case had the officers in fact jumped on the hands.

My friend read the first part of that paragraph but he did not read the medical evidence. He just read the allegations.

I want to read three more portions to which my friend referred in a distorted way. The first is:

—McCready complained of having been burned in the face by mace. McCready's file indicates that he is allergic to dust. As a result, Health Care Officer Gallant feels that the redness about the face was more likely caused by the allergic reaction from lying face down on the floor for a few hours.

Mr. MacKay: How many hours?

Mr. Kaplan: I think four to five hours.

During the question period, the hon. member for Burnaby read another half paragraph which reads:

There is also little doubt that some inmates were kicked in the hands or had them struck by a night stick.

As I said, this was news to me. When I stood up to answer the question, I had not yet read that part. But the report goes on to state:

—the lack of physical injury indicates that these incidents were few and of low intensity.

On that score I feel justified in making the statements I made before the justice committee, relying on the information upon which I then relied.

Coming to the conclusions, we read:

After reviewing the foregoing facts, the Board finds that . . .

(1) The force used to effect the arrest of the hostage-takers and their subsequent removal from D-4 Range to the dissociation areas was, having regard to all circumstances, not excessive.

(2) There is no evidence to indicate that inmates 2579 DESROCHES and 3321 WRIGHT were subjected to excessive force or mistreatment.

(3) Inmate 0592 ENMAN was subjected to degrading treatment while being transported from the dissociation area to the institutional hospital.

(4) The keeping of 14 inmates secured to their cells—

This referred to the handcuffing and the lying on the floor of the inmates. It continues:

—on the D-4 Range, while police were gathering physical evidence was justified. (5) With the following two exceptions, all inmates on D-4 Range, including the hostage-takers, were guarded by CSC staff under the observation of RCMP officers at all times:

(i) A period of approximately 20 minutes immediately following the removal of the hostage-takers from D-4 Range.

(ii) Inmate ENMAN was transported from the dissociation area to the institutional hospital without police observation.

(6) All remaining D-4 inmates underwent a medical examination upon being moved from D-4 Range. No serious injuries were recorded.

(7) There was a lack of pre-planning for the orderly securing of all remaining D-4 inmates—

The hon. member for Burnaby referred to that.

The final recommendation is:

(8) The total anonymity of IERT members is not advisable.

I can tell the House that we are changing that procedure. We are putting numbers on the IERT uniforms so that an inmate will know exactly who is approaching him from the IERT. This recommendation will be implemented in the next day or so.

● (1540)

When I read parts of the report and my friend reads parts of the report, it sounds like two different reports. The sentences he read are there. In many cases he has just read half sentences. When I look at the findings, I insist in substance no torture or vengeance took place following the freeing of the hostages. The information I gave to the justice committee was justified. I believe hon. members who read this report will draw their own conclusions and will come to the same conclusion. Therefore the motion by the hon. member for Burnaby is ill-founded.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Does the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce (Mr. Allmand) want to speak on the same question of privilege?

Mr. Allmand: Yes, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker: No. I do not think I can hear him if those incidents occurred under his administration. If necessary, I could perhaps let the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce explain himself. But this is a discussion following a report of which only one person in the House has a copy. I have the feeling that the hon. member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) has the copy, and the minister himself, of course. At first glance, I think there is a difference in the interpretation of the facts.