

Pray tell, Mr. Speaker, where do we go with that? What happens in any dispute in our country? Is he justifying the break-ins and barn burnings in Quebec ten years ago? Will he endorse wrongdoing in the future? I think the Party to my left deserves to give us an explanation. I suspect not many members of his caucus agree with him. I hope that some time in the debate in the days ahead we get an explanation regarding the points of view expressed by the Hon. Member for Kootenay West.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have an opportunity to raise some points regarding Bill C-9. I am disappointed that we have had the muzzle placed on us by the Government.

Mr. Kaplan: Some muzzle: forty people have spoken.

Mr. Riis: I have been waiting to hear members of the Government speak to Bill C-9. This is an opportunity for Hon. Members to rise and discuss the principle of the Bill. It is a very important Bill to every constituency in this country. If there is a Bill on which we have received the most mail, I suspect most Members would say it is this particular Bill. I have been curious to know what government members have had to say about this Bill, but I believe there have only been two or three government members who have risen to speak about it. So again, we are left in the dark as to why the Government is motivated to bring in a Bill with very serious limitations. When this Bill gets to committee we will certainly be offering recommendations and suggestions on how it may be improved, but I think it is very important that Members be given an opportunity to raise their concerns about the nature of the Bill and its principles.

● (1140)

In a submission to the McDonald Commission the Leader of the New Democratic Party made it very clear that the caucus of this Party supported in principle the idea of a civilian security service. However, there were some very specific limitations on that endorsement. They were that we would support this concept, assuming that it would be properly drafted to ensure proper safeguards with respect to oversight and the powers of the agency itself. With that caveat we were quite prepared to support this concept of a civilian security service.

When one looks closely at this legislation a number of concerns immediately come to mind. One is the obvious problem of the employees of the new agency not being required to obey the rule of law. The agents of the security force will be able to break the law as we know it. This is what led to this whole examination, the McDonald Commission, and the exposure of the RCMP wrongdoings. Presumably that motivated the Government to introduce this Bill to set that behind us in order to get on with dealing with the nation's security, presumably using legitimate and legal methods. However, we find in the Bill that this is not going to be the case.

I have a concern other than that of employees of the agency being allowed to break the law. My concern is what this Bill will mean to the lives of most Canadians. There are already

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800,000 files on individual Canadians. What is the status of that set of files today, Mr. Speaker? Are they alive? Are they being expanded? We have yet to receive that information. I suspect there may be Members of the House who would find themselves in those particular files.

That concerns me, Mr. Speaker, particularly when we find in this legislation that the security agency, as a result of this legislation, will have access to all the records of government. They will be able to look at an individual's family allowance records, unemployment documents from over the years, private medical and psychiatric papers which exist, and tax returns from the very beginning to the present day. They can look into confidential legal files which may exist and at journalists' notes of various stories written about individuals or circumstances.

To obtain these materials they can access government documents easily as well as your personal documents. If necessary, they can break into your home to do this. This legislation gives them authority to break into one's home to obtain these documents. They can break into buildings, offices, warehouses, factories and plants as well as one's own home. As the Minister responsible for this Bill has indicated, they would need to have a warrant. A judge would have to indicate that it is okay to break into a home. If past record is any indication, this has simply been a rubber stamp right from the beginning. Last year there were over 800 requests for this type of warrant and not a single one was rejected. It would appear they simply ask a judge and his automatic response is to allow them to break into individual Canadians' homes to look at these confidential documents, if that is what is required and they consider you to be a subversive.

I have some personal concern with this legislation, Mr. Speaker. Not long ago I was told by a number of my friends that the RCMP had been asking about me. They had gone to my employers, my friends and neighbours and asked a variety of things about my behaviour and whether I was a good Canadian citizen. I went to the RCMP. The local inspector was a good friend of mine at the time. I said that I would like to know what was going on because the RCMP undercover agents had been making inquiries about me. He told me there were some documents in customs which I had apparently obtained from the island of Cuba and they were very concerned about these documents, so I suggested we go and look at these documents.

At the time I was teaching school. One of the responsibilities I had was to explain to my students the nature of revolution. I had thought that using some of the posters one finds in the country of Cuba would be useful so I had written to one of the educational institutes in Cuba to obtain a sample of one or two of the major posters found in downtown Havana. That was what was in the package. However, this led to many days of searching by the RCMP, obviously concerned about this very subversive literature which I had written for from the island of Cuba.

That was followed up a few days later by another investigation by the RCMP undercover agents. They were concerned