

*Criminal Code Amendment*

Sargent be appointed commissioner under the Public Inquiries Act, is not authorized under the act.

Miss Southin also seeks a declaration restraining Sargent from inquiring into why members of the PPWC left the international to form the Canadian union, and whether their leaving "was justified morally, philosophically or legally."

She will also seek injunctions restraining Sargent from acting as commissioner, from committing any person to jail for contempt, from making any inquiry or finding in connection with the union rift.

If Braaten does not purge his contempt today, Miss Southin will also ask Monday for a writ of habeas corpus hearing for him. She will also seek to have bail set in his case.

She was given leave Wednesday night by Mr. Justice Peter Seaton to bypass the usual six clear days required for service of any action against the attorney general.

That action is proceeding at the present time. I wish to deal with the stir this has caused in the legislature of British Columbia, because I am one of those who is convinced that the only way this matter can be properly dealt with is by an amendment to the Criminal Code of Canada. I am inclined to agree with the opinion of the Solicitor General that we should not act hastily in this regard and should do everything we can to make sure that we enact the type of legislation that is required to cover this whole field. We should wait for the findings of the Royal Commission on Security, which is sitting at the present time, before reaching any conclusion in this respect. Legislation may be introduced in the meantime, but I think that before we finally adopt legislation that is intended to cover all aspects of this question we should give careful consideration to all that is involved in it.

I should like to read from an article which appeared in the *Vancouver Sun* of February 24. It is headed, "Abandon Bugging Inquiry, Opposition Chiefs Demand", and says:

The leaders of B.C.'s two opposition parties launched new attacks on the royal commission on eavesdropping Thursday night, demanding immediate suspension of the probe and introduction of laws to protect individual privacy.

Both N.D.P. opposition leader Robert Strachan and Liberal leader Ray Perrault said in statements issued outside the legislature that the inquiry is unnecessary because there is already ample evidence that electronic bugging is widespread.

Perrault charged that the commission was politically motivated.

And Strachan, who claimed the probe is off the track, anyway, said the Social Credit government is pressing on with the inquiry "for strange purposes of an unknown nature."

[Mr. Herridge.]

"No royal commission is needed to show that electronic devices are being used to invade the privacy of the individual," said Perrault, adding:

"A look at page 122 of the city of Vancouver telephone directory (yellow pages) and page 86 of the Victoria telephone directory shows that no royal commission is needed to prove that government licensed and bonded detective agencies are using devices for 'listening and recording' and for detecting 'telephone taps and room bugs.'"

Perrault was referring to display advertisements in the phone books.

Among the several ads is one which offers midget telephone tape recording and secret electronic equipment.

The Liberal leader said the probe was politically motivated because when a private bill on privacy was introduced in the legislature in 1965 no action was taken.

Again last year, when bugging devices were found to be in use in the Victoria police station, nothing was done, he said.

Perrault said the government showed no interest in invasion of privacy until last fall, when two unions became involved.

● (5:50 p.m.)

The irresistible conclusion is that this Social Credit government became vitally concerned when they saw that a political advantage might be derived.

The Liberal leader said the inquiry should be suspended.

But, if the government insists on continuing the probe, it should suspend the licences of private detectives who are advertising the use of bugging devices until the commission has ended its inquiry.

The detectives should also be called before the commission.

Strachan said "the commission has gone off the rails" and is really engaged in trying the people involved in an inter-union dispute.

And the result is that the man who was hurt in the bugging incident is now behind bars.

"This is ridiculous and must be stopped. It does not deserve the confidence of his government which established it nor of anyone else.

Any action less than the termination of the commission can only be viewed as a continued effort by the Social Credit government to use Her Majesty's prerogative in a royal commission for some strange purposes of an unknown nature."

Strachan said that if there are inter-union problems that require investigating, they should be referred immediately to the select standing committee on labour at the current session of the legislature.

I agree with the criticisms of the leader of the opposition in the provincial legislature, Mr. Strachan, and I agree with the criticisms voiced by Mr. Perrault dealing with this matter, although I am still of the opinion that the only way in which it can be dealt with effectively is through an amendment to our Criminal Code.