

mouth shut. See no evil; hear no evil. This is the new doctrine of ministerial responsibility. That is what we are being led to believe happened over all these illegal acts for the last seven or eight years—that the solicitors general were instructed and the Prime Minister agreed not to ask the RCMP security services anything but just leave them on their own—Don't ask any awkward questions or try to find out what is happening. That is not our practice.” But the lie was given to that, Mr. Speaker, just about a week ago when the Prime Minister and the Solicitor General went berserk getting every kind of detail from the RCMP and security service they could. They got all the files and every little bit of information they could to try to prosecute and persecute the hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Cossitt). That gives the lie to the Prime Minister's high protestations that their principles were never to interfere with the RCMP.

Mr. Woolliams: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Well, to serve their political purposes, sir, they put their snouts into the security files immediately. And they did not have the gumption—and they were correct—to try to prosecute the hon. member for Leeds; it is the biggest surrender since Napoleon left Moscow. But instead they are going to bully the media. They are attempting to show the mailed fist to the media. They are going to prosecute the Toronto *Sun*. They know they are on a sticky wicket with the member for Leeds so they are attempting to intimidate the press. Well, what a scurvy bunch. And still, that scurvy bunch are asking me to support them in having more power without any reference to anyone; that the Solicitor General should have this tremendous power, untrammelled in any way. How can I go along with that? I cannot. I will not.

Only if the bill comes out of committee with protection for the people of Canada, for us, and for everyone else concerned, will I support the bill. I agree there has to be the right to intercept, but only under very careful safeguards, both on the security side and the criminal side. The behaviour of this government only gives me every reason to continue to cling to that point of view.

An hon. Member: Five o'clock!

Mr. Crosbie: No, it is not yet five o'clock.

Mr. Woolliams: They would like it to be five o'clock, but it is close to midnight for them.

Mr. Crosbie: The time is close to zero hour for them. The sunset law is going to come down on their heads very shortly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the Prime Minister and his Japanese terrorist. We caught a Japanese terrorist, he says, by intercepting the mail. It is the first time I ever heard of a Japanese terrorist being small enough to fit into an envelope. What was he in? What kind of a cardboard carton was the Japanese terrorist in, Mr. Speaker, that they caught him coming through the mail? The poor devil would have starved to death had he got caught in the Canadian Post Office before he could ever have been delivered to the receiver.

Criminal Code

What kind of malarkey are we supposed to swallow here in Canada from this government? Japanese terrorist!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Well, so much for that. It turned out, before the McDonald commission, that there was no Japanese terrorist caught in any manner by means of the interception of any mail. Every attempt to get information from the government is stopped. The Keable commission, which was in no way under its control and which was doing a fine job in the province of Quebec, asking proper questions, being meticulous, burrowing in to get the information we are all interested in having if we are interested in civil liberties, has been guillotined by the government opposite, not because it is digging into something under federal jurisdiction but because it is digging into the truth. And it is the truth the government cannot stand having revealed. So it is the self same government which now comes rushing in to ask us to put our imprimatur on this bill and to forgive them for acting illegally for the 39 or however many years it is they have acted.

Where is the freedom of information act, Mr. Speaker? Have they rushed into the House with a freedom of information act? They offered us that little green paper! They must think we are too green to burn. They used to use such an expression about Newfoundlanders. They used to say that Newfoundlanders were too green to burn. Well, where is the freedom of information bill? One would have thought they would have brought it in at the same time as this bill—the one which will allow the government to intercept the mail. Where is it? It is nowhere. It is not coming because this government cannot afford to let any information go out, other than what it chooses to evacuate through anaemic press releases which come flooding into our offices day after day.

● (1502)

My God, the amount of paper wasted by the government opposite in these things is enough to give one the horrors. Not information, but poppycock and piffle and vacuous statements of vacuous ministers evacuating on the Canadian public. What we want is a freedom of information act. I imagine at one time the Civil Liberties Association thought the Prime Minister wasn't too bad. Well, they wrote him a letter a while ago in response to that press conference that I quoted from, and here is their letter. It was in the papers November 16, 1977, signed by some very eminent people, fine people. Judge Emmett Hall, a great appointment of a former prime minister, an adornment to the Supreme Court of Canada, a man of impeccable credentials, a royal commissioner of superb talent and ability, signed this letter addressed to the Prime Minister about the RCMP, the government and the rule of law. It was an open letter making certain suggestions, pointing out the same statements that I quoted from the Prime Minister today saying how shocked they were and asking him to correct the statements, to make all relevant information on RCMP law breaking immediately available, to launch immediate disciplinary proceedings, to launch immediate investigations into illegal conduct at the Post Office, to establish a parliamentary committee