Security Intelligence Service

Speaker, the freedom of Canadians. Look at what happened in the Department of National Revenue. Look at what happened in the Department of Justice.

An Hon. Member: Tell us.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I plead with the Hon. Member, who is a very experienced parliamentarian, to address his remarks to the motion now before the House. His remarks cannot be of a wide ranging and broad nature. The Hon. Member must address himself to the specific amendment.

Mr. Towers: I understand that, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize for digressing, but I did have to take care of the "Ohs" from the other side. Apparently that is all they are able to say.

In dealing with this motion before us today, because of the Speaker's ruling we find it strikes at the very guts of the whole Bill. The Speaker mentioned—would you allow me?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am afraid the Chair cannot allow any comment or reflection on the Speaker's ruling. That is very much against the rules, practices and traditions of the House. I plead with the Hon. Member to restrict his remarks to the motion before the House.

Mr. Towers: Mr. Speaker, if we can delete the title, then we will be able to deal with the other aspects of this Bill when we get to those motions that are of fundamental importance to the Canadian people. I refer to Motion No. 11 which has been negated by the title. If the Government opposite would see fit to delete the title, then we could deal with Motion No. 11. I hear the Gentleman of the Black Rod at the door, Mr. Speaker.

An Hon. Member: Someone is practising.

Mr. de Jong: That is the knock on the door for the 12 Liberal Cabinet Ministers.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I invite the Hon. Member to pursue his remarks. The noise is not a knock on the door.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: May we have order in the House. It is very distracting to the Hon. Member for Red Deer (Mr. Towers) who is making a speech to be disrupted in this fashion. If we could have decorum in the House the Chair would appreciate it, as would the Hon. Member for Red Deer I am sure.

Mr. Towers: Mr. Speaker, the Government has not convinced Canadians that the close surveillance of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service will be adequately controlled. They are not satisfied that Parliament, the Minister or the Cabinet are going to have adequate control of this service. This is the frightening part of this legislation. That is why I say Motion No. 1 should be withheld or deleted until such time as the changes that can be made within the debate as it

goes clause by clause take place. Perhaps the Government of the new Leader of the Liberal Party will have a change of heart and thereby we will have that opportunity to make the changes that will be satisfactory to Canadians.

I am sure that the people you represent in this House of Commons, Mr. Speaker, are just as concerned as the people I represent. They have seen so many of their freedoms disappear, disappear through agencies over which there is no control. The best example I could give you is of the dark days of Quebec in 1970. Hindsight is always better than foresight, as the saying goes, but nevertheless we do have to set legislation in place to ensure proper protection for Canadians so that they will not experience those kinds of problems in the future.

All one has to do is to read the minutes of the committee hearings, statements in the press and, statements made by representatives of all three political Parties, even the Party opposite, which show concerns about the changes of establishing this agency without adequate control put in place. We have had a ruling today. Unless we can change the title, delete it or table it until such time as there has been adequate debate in the House of Commons to ensure that legislation is put in place to protect Canadians, we are going to suffer a great deal of apprehension about what can happen in the future.

It does not matter from which province you come, certain circumstances can happen anywhere, not necessarily in the province of Quebec. I have often said, and I continue to say, that anything that can happen any place in the world can happen in Canada. We read every day about what is happening in other countries. We read about agencies getting out of control and the rights of individuals suffering as a consequence. I have to warn you, Sir, and the Members opposite that I am not speaking lightly about this. I am very sincere. We read in the papers about people who object to certain things, in other countries and suffering the consequences by having their arms cut off. These atrocities take place elsewhere in the world today because some entity is given control.

Let me refer to the armed forces. I have always felt, and people will tell you the same thing, that as long as you can keep control of the management of the armed forces under three different heads you will always have that alternative, that alternative force, to ensure that total control does not take place. We have seen what has happened in the world when one man gets control of a society. This has happened within our memory and it is a situation happening in different places in the world today. At the present time, there are 35 areas of war in the world. Any of these things can happen in Canada.

• (1640)

I would urge you, Mr. Speaker, to accept this motion. I would urge you to encourage debate and to encourage Members opposite to take whatever action is necessary at least to agree to the tabling of this motion at this time. It is of fundamental importance to the well-being and protection of our Canadian people.