

Some five or six hours later the inmates on that tier were removed and taken to hospital. I have the reports of the medical inquiry which indicate very clearly that many of these prisoners were bruised on their hands and that they had other injuries. The report goes on to indicate that nine of the prisoners complained of having been maced, and kicked or clubbed on the hands. One complained of having been maced only, and two of having been maced or struck with a night stick.

Then we get to the factual conclusions which are directly at variance with what the Solicitor General categorically stated to the justice committee. This special inquiry in-house report states:

It is clear that the majority of the inmates were maced before they were handcuffed. Inmate Grealey's version is typical. 'My ears were still ringing from the explosion and all that racket when along came this guy with a mask on and he said something to me. I guess he was telling me to lay down but I couldn't hear well through his mask so I said: 'What did you say' and I got maced and went down.'

The inmates were all ordered to the floor (most at gunpoint), cuffed, and told to lie still. This rule was rigidly enforced.

One inmate said—

—'every time you'd move, you'd get maced or hit with a club or kicked.'

Then the report goes on:

The board has little doubt that a few discreet shots of mace were applied unnecessarily despite the presence of RCMP officers.

Of course, RCMP officers were not even there for a period of 20 minutes. The report continues:

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

That was categorically denied by the Solicitor General in misleading the justice committee.

I will come to the conclusion very shortly, Madam Speaker, but there were a number of other concerns that I wanted to point out briefly arising from this report. Another quote directly from the in-house report is as follows:

There is little doubt that many inmates were maced because they did not react to commands immediately and that they did not do so because they could not hear properly what was being said through the gas masks. There is also little doubt that inmates were handled in a rough fashion.

The report goes on to deal with rough and unprofessional behaviour and to express very serious concerns about the fact that all of these IERT members were unidentified, were anonymous. Finally, the report states that one of the inmates was subjected to degrading treatment by being dragged across the prison.

My question of privilege, Madam Speaker, is that the minister, in speaking to the justice committee, and through it to the House, has categorically denied there were gassings and beatings, and has stated that independent witnesses were present at all times. Both of those alleged facts are simply not true. No independent witnesses were present for the first 20 minutes at that tier. The minister's own in-house inquiry report clearly states there were beatings and gassings, that inmates' hands were handcuffed very tightly, that they were

held there for five or six hours and at least one inmate was subject to degrading treatment.

• (1530)

In view of this, and in view of the fact the minister has misled the House, I have no doubt the situation had something to do with the warden of the institution having placed his own reputation on the line by saying he was present at all times and that none of this had occurred. Therefore, I assume the minister will take the necessary action with respect to that particular individual, because his own official has said that what that acting warden has stated is not accurate. However this arose, it is clear that the minister has a responsibility to the justice committee, to this House to which the justice committee reports, and through this House to the people of Canada, to state that he has misled the House and the people of Canada and that these very serious allegations indeed have substance.

Therefore, if Your Honour finds there is a prima facie case of privilege in this particular instance, I would be prepared to move seconded by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles): that this matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections for a full and comprehensive examination.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I will be brief in my submission. However, I would like to say a few things about this report, which I confess I had not fully read by the two o'clock period today.

When I appeared before the justice committee and gave answers referred to in the statement made by the hon. member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson), I was relying on the information I had received, as he noted. However, I had been told and was well aware that another investigation was under way. That second investigation is the report from which my friend has read in such a totally distorted way, with no reference to many of the other matters contained in the report which certainly temper the impression which the hon. member for Burnaby has attempted to give to them.

I was quite satisfied, and I remain quite satisfied, that the events which took place following the release of the hostage takers cannot be characterized as a kind of revenge-torture session, which is the impression my friend has attempted to create. There is nothing in this report which indicates there was a revenge-torture situation. My hon. friend has this report. I intend to quote from it, and I know that that means the report will be made public. But in fairness to those who work for the correctional service of Canada I think the report should be made public. I say that because the way in which it has been read by my hon. friend totally distorts the findings, which I will come to, and the observations which were made.

First, I want to comment on the absence of the RCMP officer. The report does indicate, and this is somewhat inconsistent with the information I had, that for a twenty-minute period following the release of the hostages the RCMP officer was not present. But I believe the warden was present at that