

Mr. MacKay: Have we reached the stage where the police make their own decisions without telling their political masters? Have we reached the stage where the political masters do not care to find out or do not want to find out?

An hon. Member: Maybe they know already.

Mr. MacKay: Who is running this country? Is it the police? Is it the bureaucrats?

An hon. Member: Certainly we know it is not you.

Mr. MacKay: It is certainly not me, but I would suggest to the hon. member opposite that I have done more to shed light on what is happening in this country than he has.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacKay: It is pretty obvious that members opposite are rather discomfited and disconcerted by some of the revelations which are coming out tonight. I will be particularly anxious to find out more about the background of the withdrawal of responsibility from the RCMP and turning it over to the military. As well, I will be interested in finding out if the Solicitor General really has a handle on the operations of the special "O" branch which he mentioned today. I would be interested in finding out if the Solicitor General has a handle on what is going on, because it is becoming obvious that his predecessors certainly did not. If they did, they have managed to conceal it with the kind of cunning one would hardly expect on the basis of their ostensible performance.

An hon. Member: How about some facts?

Mr. MacKay: Members opposite want facts. I have given facts already. When I listened to the Solicitor General groping around and asking the opposition to supply policies and facts, as we have done on so many occasions with respect to taxation, economics, and other things, then I say to myself: if this government does not have the resources, the integrity or the ability to run this country, why do they not simply pack up and go home?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Paproski: They are just a bunch of phonies.

An hon. Member: There is no replacement at all.

Mr. MacKay: The hon. member opposite indicates that there is no replacement. Any replacement would be an improvement over what we have.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: This government is so incompetent that it is not confronted with insurmountable obstacles. They are confronted with insurmountable opportunities. That is how bad they are.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

RCMP

An hon. Member: Did you get that one, Hughie?

Mr. MacKay: It is pretty obvious that we require some sort of an inquiry that is far more sweeping and far more—

Mr. Poulin: Like Hamilton Harbour?

Mr. MacKay: I am glad the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin) has referred to the Hamilton Harbour matter.

An hon. Member: Try another one, Hughie.

Mr. Gillies: How many guys are in jail on that one?

Mr. MacKay: I remember when we had that famous meeting with the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs where the two solicitors general sat there like two owls, with the RCMP Commissioner in the middle. For two hours they proceeded to dance around and not give us any information. I remember quite well what the then commissioner, Mr. Nadon, admitted. He admitted that it was quite possible in the Hamilton situation that there were activities, in the files, by the SS of which he was not aware. I remember that very well.

Mr. Poulin: You did not answer the question.

Mr. MacKay: I hope the hon. member opposite will get up and say something constructive. We would all be very interested in hearing what the hon. member for Ottawa Centre has to say.

Mr. Muir: He sits on his brains.

Mr. MacKay: The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. Muir) says, "He sits on his brains". That may well be true. I never examined his anatomy that closely, because frankly it did not interest me.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: That is where he is bugged.

Mr. MacKay: I wonder if he were bugged whether he would know it.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Try again, Hughie.

Mr. MacKay: As the Solicitor General has said, we must address ourselves to ironing out a situation where two royal commissions in this country are being obstructed by the Solicitor General and other members of cabinet in getting information.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: We have to find out why the Solicitor General was not able to give me an unequivocal answer today, that there was no problem with surveillance, bugging or mail interception, with any member of the Laycraft Commission of Inquiry. I put that question to him, and he never answered it. He could not give me that kind of unequivocal assurance.