

Administration of Justice

Mr. Fulton:—and also that included in the involvement were two or more ministers, not just involvement with the said Gerda Munsinger but involvement which, in the very direct implication of everything the minister said, was improper.

● (8:20 p.m.)

Mr. Cardin: Quote that.

Mr. Pearson: Quote that. Talk about smearing.

Mr. Fulton: Oh, yes, the minister said it was worse than the Profumo scandal. That is what he said, and there is no reference to that in the terms of the inquiry.

Mr. Cardin: Just quote what I said. That will be sufficient.

Mr. Fulton: I will come to that. I have the press clippings here. He implied there was a security risk involving former ministers. Is that not improper involvement? Is all that he was saying that somebody knew Gerda Munsinger? Is that what he was saying? Of course it is not and he knows it. The inquiry should examine whether that improper involvement he was alleging was an involvement such that the actions of those concerned were definitely a security risk to Canada. "Definitely" is the word he used, but we find in the terms of reference the words "may have constituted a risk to the security of Canada". That is not what he said. I have the clipping before me:

"I don't know—but there definitely was a security risk."

He tells me to quote him. He nods now. He said it definitely involved a security risk. So that sentence should be deleted, because that is not the charge the minister made.

There should be substituted words to the effect: "and into all statements by the Minister of Justice in a press conference on March 10, 1966, and the implications thereof, and to ascertain whether there was evidence in the R.C.M.P. file laid before the government in 1961 to support the following findings:

1. That 'two or more ministers' were improperly involved with Mrs. Munsinger and that their actions in that involvement had been such as to be 'definitely' a security risk to Canada."

That is what we want the commissioner to look into.

[Mr. Pearson.]

"2. That the file turned over to the minister of justice by the R.C.M.P. in 1961 was a 'bona fide security case'.

3. That a breach of the national security or some other offence was indicated in the file, thereby imposing a duty on the then minister of justice or prime minister to refer the file to the legal advisers in the Department of Justice.

4. That Mrs. Munsinger was known to have been employed and to have been active in espionage work before coming to Canada."

An hon. Member: Now we are getting to it.

Mr. Fulton: That is what we want the commissioner to look into, because that is what the Minister of Justice alleged outside the house. He apparently is nodding his head that these were the allegations he made.

Then, as I say, the word "may" is not acceptable. The word "may" must come out. His allegation was that the case was a definite security risk. The commissioner also should be asked to inquire into the question of whether the Munsinger case was worse than the Profumo scandal, another charge made by the Minister of Justice. He went down behind the desk for a moment but he has come up again.

Then there is another matter in respect of which it is essential that the commissioner inquire and which must be incorporated into the terms of reference if it is to be a fair and impartial inquiry and not a loaded one. That is the question—the Prime Minister laughs. Let him explain why this is omitted from the terms of reference. The terms of reference should also include a finding and report upon the conduct of the present Minister of Justice and his immediate predecessor who, although now asserting that the case involved a definite security risk, took no action in the case until it became a subject of political controversy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Pickersgill: May I ask the hon. gentleman another question? Would the hon. gentleman tell us why he took this file to the Prime Minister so precipitately if there was no security risk involved?

Mr. Fulton: The minister who asked the question obviously does not appreciate the proper relationship between the Minister of Justice and his Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.