

When I spoke to the Leader of the Official Opposition this morning I realized I was putting a dilemma before him: should he ask his member to co-operate, or should he stand off and say, "Let the police do their duty"? Somehow this has been turned against me.

● (1602)

The hon. member for Leeds said I told the Leader of the Opposition what was going to happen. I did not, Mr. Speaker, I informed him of the information I had received from the police. I asked him to accept his responsibilities. I am aware of the difficult problem I placed before him, but quite honestly I thought that the correct course would have been for the leader of a party to go to one of his members and to say to him; "Look, I know from the Prime Minister that the law officers of the Crown are advising the issuance of a search warrant. For God's sake, why don't you hand this over to the police and we will not hear about it any more".

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I think members of the House would perhaps be enlightened if I spoke a little about the nature of the document in the hands of the hon. member for Leeds. I think it is very important to know—and I think it was obvious from what the hon. member said to the press—that that document pertains to the activities of foreign agents in Canada. I do not think that the handling of that document and what the hon. member has said up to now has added substantially to the debate which is going on in Canada regarding national security. I do not think it has permitted us to seek a more enlightened course of action in the future when some subversive agents are detected in Canada. But I do know that it greatly undermines the efforts of the Canadian security service to protect Canada's national security, and I will tell the House why.

Any foreign security service is interested in knowing how our security service operates—that is the first thing they try to do. To a certain extent that was what occurred a couple of weeks ago in this country. A foreign security service will pay a lot of money to break Canada's security service so that the system of operation of our security service becomes known to the enemy, to the opponents of this country. They bribe, they pay large sums of money, they attempt to penetrate our operations, they try to suborn Canadians, they use all kinds of techniques, and we had the evidence of that a couple of weeks ago. By courtesy of the hon. member for Leeds, they can get this now for free. They know from this document that our security service operates in certain ways, and they get this through the courtesy of the hon. member for Leeds—perhaps with no ill intention on his part—but it is the type of thing that unfriendly intelligent services want.

That is not the end of the damage. What is perhaps more important is that if loyal Canadians who have information on possible subversives in Canada see it as their duty to talk to the RCMP and give them the information they have, they are not guaranteed now that their names will be withheld. Perhaps

their names will come out in headlines, courtesy of someone in the opposition or of someone else.

In Canada we do not have a system of forcing Canadians to co-operate with the police; we rely on their sense of patriotism, we count on Canadians to come forward and give police the information they have about subversives. Are they likely to be encouraged in this? If they now find out that they have a leaky security service, that entire documents on unfriendly operations against Canada will become known in some way and that the member of parliament who has them, when apprised of the seriousness of his knowledge, refuses to hand them back, will they be likely to give the police the information they have?

The hon. member wants to ask advice on whether a stolen document should be given back to the Government of Canada. I do not think we should have to wait until Monday morning to find the answer to that. Let me say once again: the consequences are too severe.

There is yet a third consequence, that much of the information in the document which is in the hands of the hon. member for Leeds came to us through the intelligence services of friendly countries, members of NATO and other countries which co-operate with Canada in giving us information about subversives operating against us.

We do not have the capacity in this country to gather all the information nor do we have security services in many foreign countries. We rely on information received from our allies. The document which the hon. member has in his possession contains much of that information, and the more he leaks it, and the more he has leaked it, the less willing will foreign countries be to co-operate with Canada, and the more in danger will be Canada's national security.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark: That is why the dollar has gone down. You always find someone else to blame.

Mr. Trudeau: We hear jokes from the Leader of the Opposition about the dollar going down. Let me say I think his stock has gone down pretty badly.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I will not continue in that vein any longer.

Mr. Clark: Because you have gone as far as you can go.

An hon. Member: Just watch him.

Mr. Trudeau: I think it is a sorry day when a top secret document in the possession of the security services in this country is in the possession of a member of the opposition—

An hon. Member: Prove it.

Mr. Trudeau: —and when that member of the opposition does not want to co-operate with the police and return that document but wants to think it over until Monday morning, and when his leader does not have the sense of responsibility to