

*Interim Supply*

of the underworld mixed up in this case. This, Sir, is one of the most critical situations that has faced any government of this country. It is a very critical situation for Canada. I think it is deplorable that we have reached the stage in this country that we have to have a judicial inquiry which comes up with findings that international crime has infiltrated into high circles of the Government.

The man who can take action is the Prime Minister, but he is not a man of action. He will just shift and sway and, as I have said on more than one occasion, make statements in the House on which I am not able to place complete reliance. Why did the Prime Minister not indicate immediate action today with regard to some of these incidents? Why did he not say that he was going to clean house in so far as his party is concerned? Why did he not say there will be no more mixing with peddlers of dope, no more connection between the great Liberal party of this country and these international gangsters? One draws the conclusion from reading page after page of this report that something is being done for Lucien Rivard because he is a party supporter, and there may be some money available to assist the party in the next election.

● (5:50 p.m.)

Surely, the Prime Minister and his Ministers were not unaware of these undercurrents within the ranks of their assistants. I hope they are aware now that they must take precautions. I call upon the Prime Minister to announce a plan to cure this sore which is besetting the Government of this country and which is damaging the political life of this country, which is damaging this institution of Parliament. Unless there can be confidence in the Government of the country, what hope is there for Canada?

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Chairman, I, as well as all other Members in the House, am extremely interested in the subject raised by the hon. Member for Winnipeg South Centre. It may be that some of our party will have something to say about it later. I had the opportunity to mention the subject last night when I was probably in a more charitable mood. I do not propose to take any more time on that subject and I shall leave it to other Members to discuss the subject of the Dorion Commission report.

I want to intervene to move the matters under discussion to something that may appear to many Members of the House far less interesting and dramatic, and I am inclined

[Mr. Churchill.]

to think it is less interesting and dramatic a subject. However, I believe it is a subject that has to be mentioned in this debate because it is a matter of considerable constitutional importance and a matter which the Government ought to have brought before this House by way of resolution. I refer to the proposed amendment of the British North America Act to add a new Section 71A, reducing the powers of the Legislative Council of Quebec.

Members of this Committee will not need to be reminded that under the terms of the British North America Act, Section 92, the right to amend the constitution of a province is clearly given to the provincial legislature. If the Quebec legislature had acted, therefore, the matter would not be one which concerned this Parliament in any way at all. However, the Quebec legislature has not acted. Section 71 of the British North America Act clearly sets out that the Legislature of Quebec consists of two houses, one styled the Legislative Assembly and the other styled the Legislative Council. The Legislative Assembly recently passed an Act called the Quebec Parliament Act, which provided in effect that any money bill passed by the Legislative Assembly may go into effect one month after its passing, even if the Legislative Council has not accepted it. Bills, other than money bills, can go into effect after a longer period of delay if passed by the Legislative Assembly, without any regard whatever to the Legislative Council. In this matter, the council was willing to accept the restriction of its power, the clipping of its wings, except in two cases, one relating to the rights of minorities and the other where the constitution of either Canada or of the provinces was being dealt with.

Now, Mr. Chairman, these suggested compromises were not accepted by the Legislative Assembly of Quebec. The Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, therefore, at the instance no doubt of the cabinet of that province has transmitted to the Governor General an address seeking an amendment to the British North America Act, and asked that it be forwarded to the Queen for eventual passage by the Parliament of the United Kingdom. This takes the form of an amendment to the British North America Act, and the then Acting Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, told us on June 16 that this was being forwarded with the advice that action be taken on it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, in our view there are very serious and erroneous precedents