

Security Intelligence Service

defend itself by taking measures which kill liberties. That is what we are talking about, Mr. Speaker. We are talking about the fear of Canadians that this Bill will remove their liberties.

The reason I really want to speak on this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is that I as a Canadian am very proud of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It is one of our great traditions and part of our heritage. It is criminal to take the responsibilities they have handled so well out of their hands, yet leave it to them to implement any prosecutions which must be made. There is a secret force to collect the information, yet its members will have to depend on that very fine organization, the RCMP, to implement any action which must be taken. I strongly believe this responsibility should remain with the RCMP.

There is a great danger of our rights being eroded, Mr. Speaker. So many have been in the five years I have been here that I am ashamed of not having been able to stop it. The rights of Members of Parliament have been eroded.

Mr. Kaplan: How?

Mr. Fennell: The Solicitor General knows that we spend hours in committee and no one listens to us.

Mr. Kaplan: I know we passed a Charter of Rights and Freedoms and a Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Fennell: That is great. I am glad he brought out the Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Kaplan: It is your ten minutes.

Mr. Fennell: Yes, and I would just like to talk about that. Under the Freedom of Information Act we are supposed to have access to all information. A report was made by an independent agency called the Shielding Corporation, yet the Minister responsible for social development cut 35 pages from the report which he did not want us to see. What good is freedom of information if the Government can select what you are going to see and what you are not going to see? I am glad the Solicitor General brought that out.

What I object to about this Bill, Mr. Speaker, is the power given to this agency which is not responsible to the House of Commons. It can open our mail. It can open a letter from my daughter to myself, from my son, from anyone, and that is infringing upon my right and the rights of 150,000 people who live in my riding. It can go through my medical records. There are many people who go to a psychiatrist, sometimes during their lifetime, in order to get help. This agency will have the right to seek information from doctors and psychiatrists in this country.

● (1530)

This agency will be permitted to go through tax files. In light of the inefficient and corrupt practices of Revenue Canada, it is possible that the information this agency obtains will be inaccurate.

This Bill permits the taping of telephone conversations. Russia has a ship stationed off the Cape of Good Hope that is

equipped with a computer to monitor conversations throughout the world through the use of a satellite. Whenever a trigger word, such as "agent" is heard, the computer automatically records that information so that it can be assessed. The same thing takes place in our country.

I also discovered that it is not necessary to bug our phones, our homes or offices. It is possible, through the use of laser beams, to cut into a private conversation which I may be having in my office. Although this agency is to be given those rights, they are not spelled out in the Bill. New technology has changed everything, but we must remember that those practices infringe upon our liberties.

Today many people have personal computers in their homes. The security service will be able to intercept the use of personal computers. This is another infringement on our rights. The interconnecting of computers into main frames to seek information is a whole new subject that must be dealt with. No one should have the right to do that, but this service will.

I suggest that this Bill represents a total invasion of privacy. No one trusts the Government any longer because it has acted so immorally. The actions it has taken have been ill-conceived and have had a serious effect on the economy of this country. No one believes that the Government would bring in legislation for a security service that would do anything but erode the civil liberties of Canadians.

Small business people in this country are having enough trouble without this service being able to listen in on them and then, in some contrived fashion, bring an action against them. That would destroy investment in Canada which creates jobs.

Our Party has taken a strong stand against this Bill, and we will continue to do so. We must remember that this Bill was not conceived in the Justice Committee but was born in the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau) Office. The Government even attempted to sneak it through a Senate committee, but even its own colleagues in the Senate spoke against the Bill. I appreciate the opportunity to speak, and we will hear a great deal more from my colleagues.

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I want to take a few moments to intervene on this motion that was put by the Government. I will not dwell on the fact that this motion, in effect, is an attempt to muzzle debate in the House of Commons since no further amendments can be put. The argument against the motion is not so much that other amendments cannot be put, but simply that the Government has shown its complete ineptness by moving such a motion. It does not have a sense of what is happening in this Chamber. If the Government had attempted to co-operate, there would have been a very good chance for this bill to have been passed today. When it deliberately antagonizes the Opposition, the Opposition will take the opportunity to debate this matter.

When I had the opportunity to speak on this Bill last week, I said that the only reason our Party was anxious to continue debate and not have the Bill go to committee was that we wanted the Government to give the committee the right to