

*Supply—Justice*

on something which has nothing whatever to do with the minister's estimates. I was very careful to refrain, as I indicated at the beginning, as other members have also refrained up until now, from dealing with anything but the police. I will not object to the hon. member continuing along this line; that is for the minister to decide. But if the committee wants a debate on the laws of Newfoundland there will be a debate on the laws of Newfoundland, and I hope those who wish to controvert other hon. gentlemen will be given the same privilege as hon. gentlemen are given who indulge in this totally irrelevant debate which has nothing whatever to do with the business of this house or the business of this parliament. It has solely to do with provincial jurisdiction in a province where the people have a vote and where they can settle these things.

**The Chairman:** Order. I must tell the committee that I was not listening too carefully to the remarks of the hon. member, and I can therefore hardly base a judgment on the point of order. However, I must tell the hon. member that he must in the present debate, and all other debates for that matter, be strictly relevant to the item under discussion. At present we are discussing the administration of the police services of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. All members who try to stray away from the limitations of the present debate will be out of order and will be so adjudged by the Chair.

**Mr. Peters:** Mr. Chairman, the only reason I referred to this was because it was commented upon by the previous speaker. I thought what he said was wrong and I thought I should have the opportunity of saying why. If that is not your wish I will abide by your ruling.

This situation, as far as the police in the province of Newfoundland is concerned, might have been considered to be an isolated case. I have a high respect for the R.C.M.P. for the simple reason that I come from the province of Ontario where the R.C.M.P. only do jobs which are of a national nature. They do not get involved in traffic violations, strikes and things of that nature. However, I consider the conduct of the R.C.M.P. to be an insult to a national police body in this country in the action they took in Newfoundland. As I say, this might have been an isolated case except it happened in the province of Ontario very shortly afterwards.

I would like to read a small section of an article, because I am concerned with this brutality. I have always known that police who were poorly trained, poorly instructed and poorly paid probably tended to be the type of people who believed in pretty strong

arm methods and did not use their heads too much. But the R.C.M. Police have been well trained and have established a record which gives them a great deal of intelligence and initiative and authority, which they have abused. In the province of Ontario, as in Newfoundland, this reputation does not appear to be recognized any longer. Senator James Gladstone went to the Six Nations reserve shortly after trouble occurred on that reservation, and he wrote an article under his name which was reproduced in the *Native Voice*, the official organ of the Native Brotherhood of British Columbia, which was also published in the *Toronto Star*. He describes what he found when he visited the Six Nations reserve at Brantford and speaks of meeting some of the people. He says:

The group grew. Friends arrived—Harry Burning and his wife, and Lawrence Nanticoke, his forehead still taped, his fingers bruised from last Friday's early morning fracas with the R.C.M.P. Mrs. Hill's daughter, 18-year-old Alice, had a black eye from the same source. Her two sisters showed me deep scratches on their arms.

Then he goes on to tell of some of the problems involved in that discussion which I am sure are irrelevant here at this particular time. He goes on to say:

At that meeting the federal government had an opportunity to reconcile the two factions' differences. The R.C.M.P.'s visit would have been unnecessary.

How much provocation the Indians gave the R.C.M.P. I cannot say. But I saw the scars received from the police by four women and two men. They were beaten.

Lawrence Nanticoke told me that he was knocked to the floor nine times. After the raid, I was told, the houses of three Indians were invaded by R.C.M.P. officers who had no warrant for such an invasion.

It will take a long time—longer than it takes black eyes and wrenched fingers to mend—for the Indians' bitterness toward the R.C.M.P. to subside.

Their hostility toward the elected council and the R.C.M.P. is now focused on the federal government.

Then the rest of the article refers mainly to Indian affairs.

Mr. Chairman, I have also seen pictures published in the papers in connection with this fracas on the Six Nations Indian reserve. They showed police in uniform with a grim and vicious look on their faces, three or four of them holding one person and beating that person, according to the interpretation of the photograph. This appears to me to warrant an investigation. Something is wrong. It may have been wrong for a long time and the reputation of the R.C.M.P. may have carried them. If this type of brutality is going to be the rule of the day of the R.C.M.P., then we will be back to the days when they were beating people on the streets in the city of Winnipeg and the days when they beat hobos who were trying to find a place to lay down