

from Saskatchewan is among those left behind. That is an attack on my own province which I resent very greatly. Where are they? Have they gone with the birds?

The Deputy Prime Minister wrapped himself in the garments of legal righteousness in his references to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Not many months ago members of the RCMP were regarded as the enemies of the nation by the Prime Minister of Canada.

An hon. Member: Hogwash.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Prime Minister had reasons. If he was here, I would take him back to 1944, but he is absent. If he reads *Hansard*, he will know what I have in mind. All over the city of Montreal the mounted police were chasing after one who, in those dark days, was doing everything he could to undermine the authority of the mounted police. I could go into details. I did on one occasion, and I gave the Prime Minister an opportunity to answer. He disappeared right after I started to speak, and he did not come back.

I will proceed to recent days. Three years ago the Prime Minister decided to change the name of the RCMP from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I could understand his antipathy with regard to "Royal". He has shown that over and over again. However, the "RC" was knocked out, and what was left was "Mounted Police". I raised the matter in the House, and the Prime Minister said there was no foundation for my raising it. All over western Canada the "RC" was removed from detachments and the like. When western Canada rose in its might and told the Prime Minister its views about him—and it is going to tell him again when the next election comes—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: —he said he did not quite understand, and the initials "RC" were restored. Before they were restored the explanation of the Prime Minister was that the reason for removing them was that if a robbery was taking place across the street and there was a car with "RCMP" on it, Canadians would not know what that meant, and the robbery would go undetected. Well, the "RCMP" was restored because the Prime Minister did not dare continue the course he had been following. In the present instance the RCMP is being used in a way which cannot be justified.

Why was the hon. member for Leeds approached? Why was the hon. member for Leeds interrogated—there was at least the expectation of interrogation—by General Dare and the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais)? They had no business whatsoever coming into the precincts of the House of Commons. What were they trying to do? That is what is called the badger game.

The Deputy Prime Minister says this will be an issue in the election. It will, and it will leave fewer Liberal members from western Canada than ever before. All over this nation there is a realization of what is happening. There is intimidation, and there are threats. I defend no one who breaks the law, but I

Privilege—Mr. Jarvis

defend the right of a member of parliament to speak without intimidation and without threats. The Liberals have a big majority. The opposition is small, but there is one custodian of our rights, the Speaker of Parliament, who represents all members of parliament, and I want to suggest to Your Honour—you might have certain views concerning what has been happening over the last few days—that the freedom of parliament is at issue, and if there has been wrongdoing, let it be punished.

However, what has happened? There has been intimidation of the press because the press has dared to publish something the Prime Minister did not like. Are there 58 different varieties—one more than Heinz—or documents spread all over this country? Today the minister refused to answer. I can understand that, if he had answered, the truth would have been out, and it would have been recognized that this document, which is presumed by the Liberal party to involve the safety and future of the nation, is in the hands of 57 different people besides, allegedly, the hon. member for Leeds. Are we to be intimidated the way Charles I endeavoured to intimidate parliament and the way Cromwell later tried to do so? Not as long as there are members who believe in the British tradition.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled again to intervene. I listened with absolute horror to the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie). Some of these gentlemen have total contempt for certain aspects of parliament and the democratic system. I have been told by them that parliament and the democratic system are valuable and precious. But now they are contemptuous of it. I rise, however on another point.

Privilege does not allow any citizen of Canada, member of parliament or corner grocery man, to break the law. It does not protect a member from prosecution. If the government erred, it erred in not immediately laying charges and prosecuting that man who committed so terrible a crime against the state. The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Cossitt) has committed a crime that is beyond all—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Andre: That is privilege. Withdraw! Withdraw now! You can't make a charge like that.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: That is against the rules.

An hon. Member: Learn something about parliament.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mrs. Holt: I will listen to Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I trust that the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. Holt) used that expression in a metaphorical sense.

An hon. Member: No, she did not. She must withdraw.