

practice, unless indeed the House believes that this should be the new orientation, the new dispensation of governments now that they should have the politicians second guess the police, they should have the politicians looking at the files that the police gather and saying, "you can get the information this way but don't do it that way and don't look into so and so because he is my friend". I think we would be blamed by the opposition if this were the political role played by the politicians. We have not played it and we do not intend to do it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lawrence: My supplementary question to the Prime Minister is as follows. The Prime Minister was shocked because this was not the FLQ, the terrorists or the bombers, this was the Parti Québécois. He himself was shocked and he said, "gee, don't do that". Well, surely under those circumstances it occurred to the Prime Minister, not in relation to a criminal activity but in regard to a political activity because this was political surveillance, to ask them what they were doing, how they were doing it and where they got their information. Surely, that occurred to the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: This is a curious doctrine indeed, Mr. Speaker. I believe the hon. gentleman, who was at one time attorney general of Ontario, is now putting forth the doctrine that when the police get information on terrorists—

An hon. Member: No, security.

Mr. Trudeau:—there should be no political interference.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: That is damn nonsense.

Mr. Trudeau: I am trying to follow the trend of thought of the former attorney general of Ontario. What he is saying is that when they have exercised surveillance of a legitimate democratic party, then you, Mr. Politician, you, leader of the Liberal party, should try to get at that information.

Some hon. Members: Nonsense.

Mr. Trudeau: He is telling me that in the case of political surveillance—and I believe this was the burden of the argument of the leader of the NDP—in the case of surveillance of a political party, I should have made it my business to know more about what they found out and how they found it out. That is an absurd doctrine.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE INFORMATION OBTAINED BY
SECURITY SERVICE NOT DISTRIBUTED TO GOVERNMENT
MEMBERS

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): I am afraid the Prime Minister has not increased his credibility as far as I am concerned—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lawrence:—because there are members of his own cabinet who have boasted of having membership lists in the province of Quebec.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Who?

Mr. Lawrence: The Minister of State for Urban Affairs has indicated that he has a list of the known separatists in the province of Quebec.

Would the Prime Minister assure me and the House now, if he can, that there has been no passage, no transfer of any of that information gathered by the security officers, not necessarily the RCMP but the security officers of this government, to members of his government who have then later used it for strictly political purposes?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the question is so preposterous that I do not know if it is worth trying to answer it.

An hon. Member: Give it a shot anyway, Pierre.

An hon. Member: Try it.

Mr. Trudeau: Maybe I will take a shot at it, Mr. Speaker.

An hon. Member: Good.

Mr. Trudeau: The simple answer is that no such list was in the hands of the Minister of State for Urban Affairs.

An hon. Member: Wherever he may be.

Mr. Trudeau: He never said he had any such list, nor did any other minister say he had such a list. I can tell you one thing, that if one wants to know the names of the members of the PQ or of those who sympathize with the PQ, one does not have to go to the RCMP. I would not have to go to the RCMP. The subscription lists of those parties are public; you just have to get the official documents and see who is interested in the PQ and you can read the list there. There is no point in suspecting that there is great skulduggery in getting the list. I repeat, the hon. member opposite could probably get a list of the members of my party in any constituency.

An hon. Member: It is a diminishing list.

Mr. Trudeau: I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that in Alberta, where I was the day before yesterday, the list of those who still believe in the Leader of the Opposition is very short.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!