

Security Intelligence Service

serious thought to whether or not there are better ways to achieve the ends that he and we all desire.

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, anyone who has spent any time in Regina cannot fail to be aware of the "Barracks", as they were called in my day, and the respect held for that particular institution. I can recall as a small choir boy being asked to go to the chapel at the "Barracks". There was only one "Barracks" in Regina at that time, as we knew it. It was a "B" Barracks, the RCMP Barracks. Evens as a small boy I felt that it was a signal honour to be asked to appear on Sunday morning at service there and see the scarlet coats on either side of the aisle. Having gone through that experience we thought our choir was a pretty special one.

I can also remember one of the Mounties who came to our Sunday school regularly. We knew he was a Mountie, though he came in mufti, his civies. One particular day he had a ceremony after Sunday school and he came in uniform. You can believe me when I tell you that when he walked in that morning he clinked in. You could hear the spurs and you could see the scarlet coat. We were in a special Sunday school class. I tell you that because it represents for me the feeling that I think is pretty general in Canada. It was very strong in Regina and I think it is very strong across the Prairies. I do not think it wanes on the way toward the coast. The RCMP is a respected, honoured force in Canada. It is a force for justice and right in which the Canadian people can have confidence. My early experience in Regina left with me those memories of the RCMP.

● (2010)

I feel that we should not remove from that force a function which they have been performing and are still performing, albeit with problems. The problems can be dealt with. They are retaining their respect, honour and the confidence which they have earned since their establishment at the end of the nineteenth century as the Royal Northwest Mounted Police.

Through the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) the RCMP are accountable to the House and to the people of Canada. For a short period in 1970 when, due to some activities which were thrust on them, they were directed to perform, or in any event occurred, there was a slight shudder in that confidence. However, they retained that confidence because of the great fund of goodwill and confidence the Canadian people have in the RCMP.

We are being asked to take away one of the functions of the force which enjoys such confidence. I admit that its prime function is the maintenance of law in areas where there is no other force of law available to the municipality or province, and certainly in the Territories and in the Yukon. We are being asked to take away from them a function which has been thrust upon them since the Gouzenko affair, during which they behaved with absolute scrupulousness and fairness. They reported to the Government of the day. The Royal commission carried out its work and the RCMP came out unblemished for their performance in that particular operation. Since then they

have had to take on the function of the intelligence service guarding Canada against subversion and now, a new phenomenon which we all deplore, terrorism, which is a form of subversion, I suppose. Subversion means to turn people against authority. Terrorism is to frighten people so that they will lose confidence in authority.

Under Clause 3 of this particular legislation we are being asked to remove from the RCMP a function which they have performed most nobly. I have some difficulty understanding the manner in which the Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) has been dealing with this legislation. I suppose it may be that the Rules of the House require him to do it in this manner. He tried to have the legislation hoisted for six months. That did not work so he thought he would take it out piece by piece, clause by clause. He has done that. He was forced to do that by the Rules of the House. We now have before us six or seven motions. One of them refers to the establishment of a separate force.

In my earlier comments I said that there could be means of dealing with the problems which are presently being encountered by the intelligence branch of the force. We are aware of them. We are aware that there are those who are not members of the force who are within that intelligence branch. They do not know whether they are fish, fowl or herring. Surely there is a method of establishing a personnel policy within the intelligence service which could be different from the personnel and promotional policy of the force itself. When the RCMP speak about the "Force" there is always a capital F in front of that word. They say it with meaning. They mean what they say. Surely there is a means of establishing within the force an intelligence service which would be under the general administration of the commissioner, under an assistant or deputy commissioner if you wish, having rules of promotion and drawing, where possible, from likely candidates within the force itself and shifting them into the intelligence force if they wish to be so shifted. We could also recruit civilians who have not gone through the training at Regina but who have demonstrated their ability in one way or another for this particular form of activity. That can be done.

I am sorry to see that my time is running out, Mr. Speaker, because I had hoped to be able to induce some Members of the Government to stand up and express some views about this force. We managed to provoke the Solicitor General to his feet. Perhaps we could get another Member to express his heartfelt views about this force and whether it should be within the RCMP or as a separate force.

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, in debate this morning we heard a good deal with respect to Motion No. 1 having to do with the title introduced as it is in Clause 3 of the Bill. It may be said that that debate was somewhat initiated by reason of an amendment introduced by our Party suggesting that the title of the Bill might more properly be the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Security Intelligence Service. The Hon. Member for Lethbridge-Foothills (Mr. Thacker) and others have already indicated the cogent reasons why that force might still be the adequate agency to conduct the