

*Supply—Justice*

(Translation):

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Chairman, I merely wish to ask a question of the Minister of Justice.

Has the Cuban government, led by Mr. Fidel Castro, applied to the Minister of Justice for information in regard to the organization of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police?

(Text):

**Mr. Fulton:** We did have some communication from Mr. Castro and a meeting was arranged with him when he was in Montreal at which time the attitude of the force with regard to any forthcoming request was indicated in general terms. Since that time we have received no further communication.

**Mr. Winch:** If I may make a brief comment on something which was said by the minister a few minutes ago on the taxpayers' money being spent in cases where the R.C.M.P. is used as a tourist attraction, as I understand it sometimes is. May I say that I have no objection to that at all—

**Mr. Fulton:** But we do not have the men.

**Mr. Winch:** It might pay good dividends to Canada, and as to the force being a tourist attraction, the minister should go out in front of this building and he would understand that. I do not think they are doing anything much in the way of our protection, but they are certainly an attraction to tourists. No one questions that.

But I should like, if I may, to get some answer from the Minister of Justice with respect to the taxpayers' money being spent on the use of the R.C.M.P. to investigate honest, decent, upstanding citizens of this country, and although this may not be admitted officially, it is nevertheless a matter of fact. I know that the minister, and naturally so, has already made clear his pride in the R.C.M.P. and that he objects to any attack being made upon them. May I say through you, Mr. Chairman, to the minister that anything I have to say—and I think this applies to everybody else in this group—is not an attack on individuals, nor on their position, but on the use made of them by successive governments over a long period of time. I am not just talking from hearsay when I say there is great objection to their use in the manner I have indicated. I think I have had a greater experience than many hon. members with regard to this way of using the force. I do not blame the individuals.

I can go back to when I was only nine years of age, when no less than once a week the R.C.M.P., between four and six o'clock in the morning, invaded my own father's home. They did so because he was the president of the one big union and at that time it was

something terrible to be a trade union leader. I have been kicked out of my bed at five o'clock in the morning by the R.C.M.P. in the period between 1916 and 1919 because they wanted to search under the mattress to see if there were any books on Marxism or something of that nature. That is my first recollection. I am not complaining about the individuals who were involved because while they were doing that in the bedrooms of our home my father was downstairs pouring tea for them.

Why did I enter politics? Because in 1930 I happened to become involved in an unemployment demonstration and was very severely beaten by the R.C.M.P. I do not think the R.C.M.P. wanted to beat up me and the others but they had their orders to clear the streets. I simply give these two examples. When we ask questions now about the use of the R.C.M.P. they are not questions about individuals but about the use that is made of them and the orders that are given, especially when they are used in connection with strikes.

I have been leading up to a question which I and others have raised over the past few years and I hope that for the first time I will be able to get a direct answer from the Minister of Justice this afternoon. The R.C.M.P. come under his jurisdiction, at least as far as estimates are concerned and, in fact, I believe the Minister of Justice has complete authority over the force.

A few moments ago we heard a discussion of subversive activities and investigations. I should like to ask the Minister of Justice this question. Since he has held office has he put an end to utilizing the time and services of the R.C.M.P. under somebody's orders, whose I do not know, to report on the travels, activities and statements of active trade unionists and those who do not belong to either the political party of the government or of the official opposition? Has the minister done anything at all to investigate why that was done in the past and to ascertain what records are now held by the R.C.M.P.?

I will stand in this house and say that nobody in the House of Commons has a greater belief in and love for democratic procedures and principles and a greater love of this country than I have. There is no person in this house who is more anti-communist than I am and many others whom I could mention. Yet I know of at least one member of the house who, although he is not supposed to have seen it has seen a record concerning himself compiled by the R.C.M.P. I have never seen my own but members of the R.C.M.P. who have resigned