

● (2132)

I know the heat of debate sometimes overcomes us a little bit, but nevertheless, by and large, the opposition has fulfilled its responsibility, and it ill behoves the Minister of Justice, of all people, to get up in front of a partisan audience and say he is going to lash out because we dare to do our duty.

As far as I am concerned, the situation of the Minister of Justice is the most pitiable of all of these cases. I find the Solicitor General's explanations unsatisfactory. I find the Prime Minister, to put it mildly, casuistic, but I find the Minister of Justice absolutely intolerably hypocritical in the way he dealt with this situation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I believe I have said enough to indicate my feelings on this matter. It is a highly serious matter. It is not a matter to be laughed at, or pushed aside, or shouted down. We earnestly desire to see the RCMP treated with the credit they deserve.

I want to say the failure of the government to handle this issue has been a great boon to those who believe in terrorism and subversion. If you adopt the general doctrine that you can do anything as a terrorist or as a subversive, what happens is that by not enforcing the law you have contempt for the law. This is precisely what the performance of this government has been in the last couple of weeks.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, I enter this debate on this particular motion with some trepidation. Being a layman and not trained in the law, I realize full well that I am not qualified to make all the nice interpretations and qualifications of the law that are made from time to time by others. However, I and everybody else here represent people, the majority of whom are in the same position as I am, and I hope to try to speak from the point of view of the layman.

In such capacity I recognize the necessity in today's society for a security force. In fact if we look into the history of security forces over the past three or four decades we will see that security forces have been absolutely essential to the survival of the whole democratic system. Indeed, had the security forces of Great Britain and, to a lesser extent, the security forces of the United States and Canada, not been very active during the late 1930's and early 1940's we would in all probability be under nazi domination today. Therefore no one can argue that it is unnecessary to have security forces.

It is absolutely essential in these days of violence, terror, and anarchy that we be able to know who are the terrorists, who are the violent, who are the anarchists, and that we be able to control them.

It is also essential that the police forces of this country have the tools at their disposal to be able to act at least as efficiently as organized crime, so that organized crime does not spread and become a cancer in the Canadian society. But what have

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we had during the last few weeks, Mr. Speaker? Despite their denials today and in the last few days, the opposition have been witchhunting, with broken brooms.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): They have professed today to have the utmost admiration for the RCMP. However, they did not have enough admiration for the RCMP to call in the RCMP detachment on the Hill to sweep their offices for the bugs they suspected. Instead of doing that they went out and hired some private "gum shoes". Even after they allegedly discovered them, they did not call in the RCMP. How is that for confidence in the RCMP?

An hon. Member: Or the Ottawa police.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): And even the Ottawa police, as my hon. colleague says.

An hon. Member: The Ontario Provincial Police.

Mr. Dionne (Northumberland-Miramichi): That is another possibility.

I would like to quote from today's issue of the *Daily Gleaner*. It reads:

York-Sunbury MP Robert Howie says the Royal Canadian Mounted Police 'is a great police force' which 'has done what the government told it to do'

Well, Mr. Speaker, how is that for talking out of both sides of your mouth? In one breath he says they are a great police force, and in the next breath he says they have been intimidated by a political party; by the government of this country. That is, of course, a total about-face in the same sentence. That comes from an MP who is a very close friend to the government of New Brunswick, which has been accused of interfering with the activities of the RCMP, and which at the moment has appointed a commission of inquiry with very limited terms of reference, that preclude the possibility of that commission of inquiry looking into the charges of political kick-backs in New Brunswick, rather than the broad terms of reference this government has put forth. Then they dare to say this government manipulates the RCMP.

To top it all off, as if that was not enough, at least we might say the NDP have been consistent in condemning the RCMP. The official opposition started off condemning the RCMP; they were out to get somebody, they did not really care whom. They would, of course, prefer to get ministers, but if they could not get ministers it would do to get the RCMP. They found out that that did not wash with the public, so today they brought in the right hon. apologist from Prince Albert to turn things around. He is good at that, but it did not work. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) had dug himself into such a deep hole that there was no possibility of extricating himself.

The hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Howie) goes on to say, as reported in the *Daily Gleaner*: