

Mr. Rowe: The animal you mention would not put it that way. We heard you before the election, do not worry about that. You never made that explanation yourself before the election.

Mr. St. Laurent: I think my friend is hearing more than he likes to hear now. He should perhaps join the club of those who have ears and do not hear. There will be an opportunity for the hon. member to make his speech if he thinks he wants to make one.

Mr. Rowe: I will make one, and I will answer you, too.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. St. Laurent: I have dealt with two of the extraordinary assertions of this motion to amend the motion for an address. Number 1 said:

failed to take adequate measures to preserve and expand markets for Canada's surplus products of farm, forest, sea and mine, and to deal with the problems of increasing unemployment and reduced income to Canadian farmers and other producers

There may be some who say we are facing a national emergency which requires extraordinary measures. I do not believe we are. I think that these are localized situations which require special measures, and that the special measures I have indicated will take care of that problem.

The next paragraph states that we failed to take steps to inaugurate a national contributory system of old age pensions without a means test. We are going to have a conference in the fall. In the meantime, we intend to secure all the information that could have a bearing upon conclusions it would be proper to arrive at at that conference.

Number 3 reads as follows:

deliberately violated a law of this parliament by illegally suppressing the report of the commissioner under the Combines Investigation Act on the flour milling industry for ten months, including the period of the recent general election campaign, and denied to parliament information essential to the performance of its duty and the maintenance of responsible government

I am not going to rehash the debate on the report of the commissioner with respect to the milling industry, which we had during the last session of parliament.

An hon. Member: It is true.

Mr. St. Laurent: If hon. members want to hear it discussed, there will be other members on this side who will discuss it.

Mr. Rowe: There is nothing more to say about it.

Mr. St. Laurent: I would appreciate it if, for the next three or four minutes, the hon. member had nothing more to say.

The Address—Mr. St. Laurent

The fourth item concerns the failure to take adequate measures to curb espionage and other harmful activities of communists in Canada. The leader of the opposition said in that connection that the Minister of Justice (Mr. Garson) had made a statement admitting the existence of spying activities, and so forth. There was a report, published by the B.U.P., which was later corrected. I have here exactly what the Minister of Justice said in that respect, and I am going to take the time to read it if I may. It reads:

In considering our security position now and what it might be in the event of another world war we can reach certain conclusions from what has happened in other countries, and from the attitudes of some of our own citizens and residents in Canada itself. In several countries, espionage, infiltration, sabotage and fomenting of discontent and disaffection, the staging of coups d'état have been used as weapons of war. In our own country we have those who have given repeated demonstration of their unsympathetic and disloyal attitude towards our institutions and our form of government.

Those of us who have some share of responsibility for security take cognizance of these and other facts and have already taken measures to guard against them. But just as those who plot against the security of Canada do not discuss their plans in the forum or from the housetops, so we who prepare counter-measures to frustrate their plot could make few greater mistakes than to specify and advertise what we have done and what we are prepared to do. To follow this course would transform our security measures into their very opposite.

Hon. members will ask themselves whether or not that is a reasonable position to take.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Would the Prime Minister permit a question?

Mr. St. Laurent: Certainly.

Mr. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Do I understand the Prime Minister to say that that is what I think he called the retracted statement? Is that the corrected version of what was in the press attributed to the Minister of Justice?

Mr. St. Laurent: That is the statement which was given to the press before the wrong version was put in.

Mr. Rowe: It is too bad that the press is not fair to you.

Mr. St. Laurent: The hon. gentleman is not the only person who we think is sometimes unfair to us. With respect to communist activities, in our understanding measures are other things than mere words, and we think that actions speak louder than words. When action was required, action was taken; and I was obliged to submit to fairly severe criticism from the other side of the house for the action that was taken. I did not regret it then and I do not regret it now. But when action requires to be taken, we think that