

RCMP

He then went on to say I should not make such innuendoes and that I should be prepared to sustain innuendoes with facts.

Well, Mr. Speaker, as soon as the hon. member had finished this diatribe, I proceeded over to his seat and showed him a copy of a security services report labelled "Top Secret", in which Chief Superintendent J. L. Forest stated, among other things: "The only reason I met Mr. Bronfman was because of his threatened legal action against Inspector Robichaud and I think I have dissuaded him from taking such action or lodging a complaint with the minister".

I then said to the hon. member that it was regrettable that the minister did not know what he was talking about, or at least would not be honest with one of his peers in the House of Commons. In other words, Mr. Speaker, I have documentary proof that the solicitor general of that day and his parliamentary secretary, through whom he presumably spoke, were unable or unwilling to be honest with me as a member of the House on this matter.

It is also useful to point out that on June 5, 1976, I said quite directly to the Solicitor General that he had those responsible for the illegal break-in at the APLQ investigating their own break-in, and that at that time he had the opportunity to set the record straight but did not do so.

It is also fair to remind the House that on December 2, 1976, in the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, I said to the minister of industry, trade and commerce, with respect to a matter involving Statistics Canada with which I was concerned, that I was happy that the RCMP were looking into the matter, but that I was rather amazed to find out that they were concerned not with the failings of anything which Statistics Canada were doing but were investigating myself in regard to where I was getting my information. Nothing was said later on about the Solicitor General's comment to this, either.

● (2132)

Tonight I am prepared to put forward another bit of startling information I have received. I must say I have some confidence in my source. I have learned that the government is no longer prepared, apparently, to trust the RCMP with the sweeping and other counter measures that are normal for government communications, but instead have turned this over to the military. This has been going on for some time. The military is now doing in this respect what the RCMP used to do. I will want to question the Solicitor General about this later.

An hon. Member: And others.

Mr. MacKay: Where are we going in this country? Where are we going in this country when there is no trust between our national police force and our national government?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacKay: As Your Honour is aware, there was a transmitting device planted by someone in the lining of a chair

[Mr. MacKay.]

in my office. I do not have the slightest idea who is responsible for it being planted there. I hope the Solicitor General will do his best to find out.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacKay: I think this is only a symptom of what is going on in this country and in this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: Personally, I do not get too excited if some thwarted mind puts a bug in my premises. I have very little to hide. It is interesting to consider that people like me, members of parliament and ordinary citizens, are being followed and spied upon and, more likely than not, the Solicitor General, who has a responsibility for overseeing the complete works of the RCMP. In fact the statutes indicate that it is under his direction. In my opinion, rightly or wrongly, he has a responsibility for what those under his guidance and direction are doing.

Mr. Alexander: Nor does he try to find out.

Mr. MacKay: Because a succession of solicitors general have been so incompetent or so lazy and have operated on the need not to know, this force has not been kept under the type of surveillance by government as to what it is doing that the people of Canada have the right to expect.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: Examples are rife in other countries which indicate that where ministers have unfortunately been caught in situations similar to the situations in which some of the ministers opposite have been caught, they resigned out of a matter of long standing tradition in parliament, a matter of parliamentary responsibility.

An hon. Member: Such as Nixon.

Mr. MacKay: For example, the justice minister in one of the German states resigned within 24 hours after the tragic events in the jail at Stuttgart. Surely that minister is a better example of parliamentary procedure than any conduct I have seen here so far.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: This government will not be responsible for very much. It is not responsible for the events in Quebec. It blames that on Mr. Lévesque. It is not responsible for inflation. That is economic forces outside the country.

An hon. Member: It is the weather.

Mr. MacKay: The government is not responsible for unemployment. That is caused by the general economic slump in the west. Certainly it is becoming more and more evident that this government is not responsible for anything. In fact it is irresponsible.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!