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THE SENATE

Motion to Recognize the Necessity of Fully Integrated Security
throughout the Parliamentary Precinct and the Grounds
of Parliament Hill and to Invite the RCMP to
Lead Operational Security—Allotment of Time—
Motion Adopted

Speech by:

The Honourable Larry W. Campbell

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

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MOTION TO RECOGNIZE THE NECESSITY OF FULLY INTEGRATED SECURITY THROUGHOUT THE PARLIAMENTARY PRECINCT AND THE GROUNDS OF PARLIAMENT HILL AND TO INVITE THE RCMP TO LEAD OPERATIONAL SECURITY—ALLOTMENT OF TIME—MOTION ADOPTED

Hon. Larry W. Campbell: Honourable senators, it is sincerely my hope that before I leave this place I won't be hearing "timely and efficient" again and again from the government side. It sort of denotes that somehow we're untimely and inefficient, but I have yet to see that instance in this chamber. I've yet to see the day when this side stands up and tries to stop something that obviously is going to go ahead. Why would you think that we would delay or why would we deny? Do I look suicidal? This motion deals with us, with the public and with our staff. It deals with our safety. Unfortunately, I wasn't here on October 22 as I was in a much safer place, Ukraine.

Surely to God we cannot be saying that anybody here is not interested in the health and security of this place. We immediately struck a committee. We immediately started work on it. In less than four months, we armed a whole security guard. We brought in the RCMP outside the gates. We set up outside perimeters. There are things going on here that you don't know anything about but that are ongoing to protect us as a government. Yet, we are accused of not being timely and not being efficient.

The genesis of having a single security force on the Hill came as the result of this committee finally, after years and years — as pointed out by both sides — of ignoring the fact that we should have not two separate security forces but one security force. You can't imagine how the hair went up on the back of my neck when I first realized that the Prime Minister was actually transferred from the RCMP to security on the other side. I have no idea how that came about, but if there is a more dangerous position to put somebody in, I would be hard pressed to see it. Yet, we don't see that anymore.

We hear there's a growing security threat. Will somebody please tell me where this threat is? Is it some deranged, psychotic, cocaine-addicted human being who gets a gun — and we won't

get into the long-gun registry — and comes to the Hill? Do we honestly believe that this guy was tied to ISIS or to any other terrorist organization? The commissioner says that he has a movie that could help us on that. Unfortunately, for whatever reason, we haven't been able to see it; and we should be able to see it before we start getting into what we're going on about here.

I wish somebody on the other side would articulate the security threat. If you could articulate that security threat to me, and it was so dire and so imminent, then we wouldn't even be having this argument. We wouldn't even be having this discussion. We would be moving forward, as we did immediately after that incident.

There are some myths going around out there. I have no idea where this 45-minute lockdown delay between the other side and us came about. Everyone I talked to said there was no delay. Shots were fired and we were locked down. Now, there may be some interpretation of exactly what a lockdown means to a civilian, but I'm telling you that when shots are fired and the police say "stay in this room and don't leave," you're locked down. You're not going anywhere. This is just another bit of intrigue or maybe even misstatement that we hear here and just accept, as we just accept the imminent threat.

Has the government lost confidence in our committee? Has the government lost confidence in the subcommittee on security that's moving ahead? If you've lost confidence, just tell us and we'll go away. I love hanging out with them, but I can do other things. I can find other things to do. Just tell us. Don't give us something and then disregard it and go on. The last time we did this — took something from a subcommittee and didn't act on it — we got the Auditor General.

I beg of you to think about this. We're not going to stand in your way. Let's get a debate going. Let's start talking about it. Let's get it to committee. Let's figure out where we're going. For God's sake, stop using the sledgehammer every time you feel like it. It belittles you as a government. It shows somehow that you're having a little bit of anxiety, but about what, I don't know. I can count, honourable senators; you win, I know it, but don't embarrass us by doing this. Don't embarrass us by continually saying this. At least start the bill and see what's going on.