

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): —to quote from the report. I think that is a matter for the RCMP in their normal investigation methods—

An hon. Member: Normal?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): —because I have a responsibility to determine—

An hon. Member: Whether you should be investigated.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): That is the most dreadful reasoning I have ever heard.

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): No, no, I have a responsibility to determine whether an inquiry should be held.

An hon. Member: Where is your sense of values?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Calgary North raised what is a legitimate point of order. He suggested that because a report was quoted from it must be tabled. If indeed a minister of the Crown has quoted from a report or document which is in possession of the ministry, there is clear precedence that it must be tabled. My recollection of the remarks of both the Solicitor General and the Minister of Labour, however, is that they made reference to the existence of the report but did not quote directly from it. Therefore, as I understand the precedent, they will not be required to table the report under the circumstances.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I should like to take the immediate opportunity, since members are insisting on being very precise in regard to certain matters, to point out that earlier in the discussion in the question period the President of the Privy Council indicated that there had been contact between my officials or that I had asked for contact by my officials with those in the counterpart department in the provincial government. The Minister of Labour inadvertently referred to direct contact between myself and the Attorney General. I want to make clear to the House that that in fact has not taken place.

● (1500)

It is rather extraordinary that no one, so far as I know, in the provincial administration of justice, which is the only administration with jurisdiction over such matters as criminal violence, sought in any way the assistance of those in the federal jurisdiction in these matters. That should have been, I would think, the ordinary way of going about this if those concerned want assistance instead of seeking a public answer on this matter.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the point of order raised by the Minister of Justice. The Minister of Justice raised a point of order, in the course of which he asserted that the matter in question was one within provincial jurisdiction. I ask, is it not abundantly clear that violence on the waterfront falls directly within federal jurisdiction, as the Norris commission inquiry clearly indicates.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, it should be clear to members of the House that, although the federal parliament enacts the criminal law, it has been the long standing tradition that matters which arise under the Criminal Code fall within

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the administration of justice, the enforcement of which has been delegated, under the Criminal Code, to provincial attorneys general. Let me make the point that provincial attorneys general have been very jealous about their function in the administration of justice which has been delegated to them.

In any matter involving violence, fraud or an offence coming under the Criminal Code, the ordinary initial investigation and pursuit of the matter comes within the competence and jurisdiction of the provincial attorney general. Of course, if that provincial attorney general finds it impossible to complete the investigation or if he finds that he cannot get the co-operation of other provincial attorneys general, then we stand more than ready to help. I only suggest that in such circumstances it would be well if the provincial attorney general would communicate such request to us, instead of responding publicly to invitations held out by an NDP member in the provincial legislature or making statements in the press.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. When the Minister of Justice attempts to slough this matter off on the province, as he has just now done—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lawrence: —and when he attempts to indicate that the provincial attorney general has not sought his help, and those were his words, or the assistance of the federal government in this matter, Sir, may I, through you, suggest to him that this matter falls exclusively within the jurisdiction of the federal government. Obviously, that is why provincial attorneys general would not seek federal assistance. They believed that these matters, which encompass far more than the territorial jurisdiction of one province, fall solely and exclusively under federal jurisdiction.

Mr. Fairweather: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. I think everybody here is getting self-righteous, and I want to be self-righteous and suggest to the Minister of Justice that it is a pity he does not follow his own sensibilities about the administration of justice when he lectures the ministers of justice of the provinces about abortion law.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will endeavour to hear all hon. members who want to contribute on the point of order, although I have grave reservations as to whether it is a valid point of order. I have heard several hon. members and several more want to contribute. If I hear some, it is only fair that I should hear all who want to make a contribution. I remind hon. members that our proceedings were interrupted by the point of order. We were in the process of coming to the hon. member for Rocky Mountain for a final supplementary. I think, in the interests of the question period and the orderly conduct of the House generally, that we should return to that point as quickly as possible. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton on a point of order.

Mr. Dick: Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some divergence of opinion between the two ministers concerned. I wonder if the ministers could resolve it. The Solicitor General indicated that the administration of justice falls