

the parameters of the investigation, he is going to look into the hiring hall practices which Mr. Justice Norris questioned in 1962 and which were also brought up in this House on numerous occasions since then. Is he going to take steps to see, as far as possible, that people with criminal records are dissociated from the labour movement?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, as far as the former question is concerned, yes, I have already answered that. There are abuses that must be corrected with respect to the hiring hall type of situation, without imputing anything with reference to this particular union at this time because it is under investigation. I am totally satisfied on that particular score.

As far as preventing anyone with a criminal record from assuming elected office in a union, that raises very serious questions. I should like to consult with my colleagues in the government; certainly with the Minister of Justice. It involves the whole question of pardon, of the nature of the criminal offence and whether we are prepared to say that anyone with a criminal record can no longer be elected to a position in a union irrespective of what the offence may be. If you just say "a criminal offence", that is a rule we do not even apply to members of parliament. If you want to apply the type of broad brush to the union movement that you are not prepared to apply in this House, I do not think civil libertarians in this House would find it an acceptable procedure.

**Mr. MacKay:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. To complete the questioning, I propose to see the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre, the hon. member for Bellechasse, the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham and the hon. member for High Park-Humber Valley.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask two questions, but perhaps I will just indicate the first one and concentrate on the second.

My first question had to do with what the minister meant by an "investigation group", which is the term he used in his statement concerning the inquiry that is to be made. To save time, I will say that the answer the minister has now given was not very satisfactory. We had hoped it would be an independent inquiry. It hardly seems to meet that specification to have an inquiry conducted, under the direction of the minister, by persons in his own department. One wonders whether that investigation group would have the authority of an inquiry with the right to call witnesses, examine them under oath, and so on.

My second question has to do with the material that was turned over to the Minister of Labour by the Minister of Justice on April 29. In his statements, the minister made a great deal of the unwillingness of the Ontario government to turn certain material over to him. I hope he is not going to play the same game with us; I hope he is prepared to table in this House the material that was turned over to him by the Minister of Justice on April 29. The minister referred to it in the first paragraph of his statement. He referred to it again in what I believe was the fourteenth paragraph of his statement. There is also a reference to

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that material in an appendix that was added to the statement, although I do not think that was added to *Hansard*.

May I put it to the minister in the form of a question, although I think Your Honour can see the makings of a point of order. Is the minister now prepared to table the material that was turned over to him by the Minister of Justice on April 29, 1975, on the basis of which he made the decision to set up this investigation group?

**Mr. Munro (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, if I may deal with the first part of the hon. member's comments first, let me make it quite clear that the RCMP will be conducting the investigation. Inasmuch as it deals with labour relations matters, they may wish assistance from officials of the Department of Labour; if they do, that assistance is available. The Department of Labour does not have an investigatory unit of its own with respect to violations of the Labour Code. It may be argued now or at a subsequent time in this House that we should have such a unit, but we do not.

I may say that the RCMP has considerable reluctance to enter areas that involved criminality because they feel that is completely within the jurisdiction of the provinces, the Ontario Provincial Police, the Quebec Provincial Police and other provincial police forces. I do not argue with that. Having read the report of April 29, however, it was my feeling that inasmuch as there were areas that affected industrial relations, then that was sufficient basis on which the RCMP could be called in to assist in the investigations. That general thesis was accepted by the commissioner of the RCMP and so they will be conducting the investigation, with assistance.

As far as the other question is concerned, whether this report of April 29 would be made public, if that is not a collective decision of the government at this time, certainly it emanated from an official of the Department of Justice who was called in to undertake this particular function. I think perhaps it would be proper to seek advice on this question from the Minister of Justice. I am going to add that in terms of my own view, of which I suppose there will be some considerable criticism, having seen the report of April 29 I know that the allegations are based on hearsay, which many of these investigation reports of necessity are. They are not the basis for laying charges; they are allegations which may cause suspicions to be aroused, but are not the basis upon which there would be any proof of criminality sufficient to condemn anyone in our democratic society.

Surely that is not the type of report which, for security reasons and reasons of pure natural justice, should be made public. That reputations would be irretrievably damaged without any substance sufficient for proof in a court of law, seems to me to be the overriding prohibition against documents of this kind being made public.

It was on the basis of this type of report that I came to the conclusion that the present action was warranted. If further investigations of the nature I have suggested here are made—going into allegations of this kind and finding out in the process of investigation that there is substance to them—I think we can count on the independence and thoroughness of the RCMP to recommend that appropriate action be taken either alone or in conjunction with the