

mentary "Connections" last night, can the minister say when we can expect a statement by him as to the extent of organized crime in Canada? Could I ask him if he saw the program and, as a result, did he meet with his officials this morning to discuss what new initiatives might be taken to control these criminal abuses against Canadian society?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I watched the program with a great deal of interest and would generally like to commend the CBC for bringing the matters of organized crime in this country to the attention of the public.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fairweather: Is someone applauding the CBC? We had better have another inquiry.

Mr. Basford: However, a great deal of the program, as far as I could see, was taken from testimony obtained by wire-tap evidence in the Quebec crime inquiry. It is for that specific reason that attorneys general have been recommending for three years that the wire-tap laws of this country be changed so that they can deal more effectively with organized crime. With regard to the passage of the provisions of Bill C-51—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford:—the most important initiative this parliament could take would be to pass those initiatives as quickly as possible.

Mr. Fraser: That is a cheap shot.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): It does not wash.

Mr. Fraser: You do not know what you are talking about.

Mr. Basford: The hon. member for Vancouver South says that I do not know what I am talking about.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): There is nothing wrong with your hearing.

Mr. Basford: I am quoting the annual reports from the ten provincial attorneys general, all of whom have recommended these kinds of provisions.

Mr. Fraser: When did you ever defend in a criminal court?

Miss MacDonald: Mr. Speaker, I might say the minister's response is more by way of an excuse rather than to give an explanation as to what the federal government is doing at this time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Miss MacDonald: Could I ask the minister to respond to the question I put to him originally, as to when we can expect a statement from him about the extent of organized crime in

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Canada, or will he just depend on what is told him by provincial attorneys general?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, it would seem to me to be more useful, in dealing with organized crime, that we have legislation rather than statements.

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question to the Solicitor General is this. Would he make recommendations to his colleague to view the second half of the program which will be shown tonight?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to whom that question was directed.

Mr. Clark: Duck it anyway, Ron.

Mr. Basford: I certainly intend to watch the second version, and I would ask members of the House to do so, particularly members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ACTIVITIES OF SENATOR DAVEY RESPECTING CERTAIN COMPANIES

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. I should like to ask the hon. gentleman if he is now in a position to convey to the House any of the information requested by my colleague, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggan, with regard to the connections and activities of Senator Keith Davey or his company, York Sporting Investments, vis-à-vis Blue Water Racing Associates Ltd., incorporated on April 16, 1975, with the chief place of business in London, Ontario.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, not a complete report, but I am sure one will be completed in a day or so. I know from the preliminary report that the so-called raceway operated, I believe, one year and lost \$70,000.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, the raceway is behaving like the government in this respect.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, since the Acting Prime Minister referred in his answer last Friday to the green paper in connection with conflict of interest problems in this matter, I should like to ask if he can indicate whether Senator Davey has been content with the perks of the Senate in so far as his dealings with the government of Canada are concerned, or whether the senator or any of his companies are involved in any business enterprises which are also deriving revenues from doing business with the government of Canada.