

*Oral Questions*

**An hon. Member:** It is a new rule.

**Mr. Trudeau:** That is a rule of this House. If the hon. member does not agree with it, he can appeal that to Mr. Speaker. However, no question to the present Minister of Supply and Services has been allowed. He has not refused to answer.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** Eldon, can you get these guys to calm down while I answer your question?

**Mr. Woolliams:** What have you got to offer today? Please answer the question.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The second point was by way of an allegation by the hon. member for Calgary North that I moved the Minister of Supply and Services when the going got tough, or something like that. I remind hon. members that during the campaign of 1972, and in the weeks that preceded and followed the campaign, the opposition was complaining that the Minister of Supply and Services was not friendly enough to the RCMP, not that he was trying to protect them too much, which seems to be the position now.

**Mr. Clark:** Not at all.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I wish hon. members opposite would remember the attitude they had in those days. Now they are saying he was covering up for the police. In those days they were saying he was not protecting them enough.

**Mr. Clark:** We are saying he is blaming them for his actions.

**Mr. Trudeau:** As to the question of the hon. member—

**Mr. Clark:** Having answered none yet.

**Mr. Trudeau:** I was coming to that.

**Mr. Clark:** Fine, go ahead.

**Mr. Hees:** String it out, Pierre.

**Mr. Clark:** You've got 15 minutes to fill in.

**Mr. Trudeau:** If I have 15 minutes, Mr. Speaker, perhaps you could use some of them to get a little silence from the opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Fraser:** It's the silence on your side we are worried about.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** It is not our reputation that is on the line; it is yours.

**Mr. Trudeau:** All right, don't you listen to my answers?

[Mr. Trudeau.]

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Why don't you give some answers?

**Mr. Trudeau:** I am sure that at least the hon. member for Calgary North is interested in getting an answer. How many years after the event? That has been made clear before. It was only in the spring of 1976 that we knew that the RCMP was involved in an illegal break-in. Before that no minister nor myself knew about that.

**Mr. Woolliams:** In light of the fact that it did take some time after the letter was received by the Minister of Supply and Services, then the Solicitor General—who says he did not get the letter because it was stopped in his office—I would have thought he would have taken some constitutional responsibility for his own staff. I believe the Prime Minister would agree with that. However, after taking several years—I do not know whether it was five or seven for the Prime Minister to find that out—what has the Prime Minister done since besides waiting for the process of law in Quebec, the government of Quebec and the attorney general of Quebec? What has the government done to clean up this mess? What is being hidden today in this conspiracy to cover up?

**An hon. Member:** Goyer.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, in fairness I am sure the opposition would want to call to mind the circumstances of the situation. The present Solicitor General, the former one and solicitors general for many years have frequently received complaints about the RCMP. I am sure we all receive complaints from the public about people in our departments who have given either cause or reason for complaint. As I understand it, the then Solicitor General did what every minister would do. He made sure that every complaint was followed up. In this particular case his officials did as mine would do, and that is to make sure that those involved in some complaint are called to task. The hon. member asks what we have done about that.

**Mr. Broadbent:** They didn't tell the minister.

**Mr. Trudeau:** The present Solicitor General gave the answer to that on Friday. I believe it was in 1974 that we appointed the Marin Commission to make sure that the police who were complained about were not being investigated by the police themselves. That is why we set up the Marin Commission, to look into the whole problem of discipline. On Friday the minister indicated what steps had been taken and will be taken to meet this particular difficulty.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I have one supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for St. John's East.

**Mr. Woolliams:** In light of the answers, surely, Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.