

Oral Questions

the amnesty made available to illegal immigrants under a program in effect for two years. Now, there is a contradiction between the statement made by the RCMP that it has acted upon the request of the Immigration officials and the statement made by an official of the Department of Employment and Immigration who assures us that the RCMP has acted against the instructions and recommendations of his department. Now could the Solicitor General explain how such a blunder could be made and what orders are given to those officers investigating illegal immigration cases?

● (1440)

[English]

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can tell my colleagues that if this is the case of which I believe she is speaking, the charges will be withdrawn. The information did not emanate from a program that would be affected by the amnesty. I believe my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, may wish to elaborate.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT HARASSMENT OF IMMIGRANTS GRANTED AMNESTY BE STOPPED IMMEDIATELY

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration, Mr. Speaker.

I think that the situation reported in the newspapers this morning shows that the Progressive Conservative government has betrayed the immigrants who have filed in good faith their applications under the amnesty program. Can the minister assure us that the harassment and proceedings against amnestied immigrants will immediately come to an end?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is totally wrong in her information, as she so often is. I would like to inform the House that the individual in question, Mrs. Ellis, had her case come before the illegal migrants program during the time the Liberal Government was in office. It was this Government that granted amnesty to Mrs. Ellis. I can also assure the Hon. Member that there was no information that was passed from the illegal migrant program to the RCMP. That is the policy of this Government.

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NATIVE PEOPLE

ALLEGED CABINET DOCUMENT—RCMP INVESTIGATION

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Earlier in the Question Period, with regard to the document that we provided to the Deputy Prime Minister yesterday, he stated that it

is routine when a document falls into the wrong hands for the RCMP to launch an investigation.

Mr. Nielsen: That's not what I said.

Mr. Deans: Whether he used those exact words or not, that certainly was the intent of what he said. I ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether in fact the RCMP would launch an investigation into a leaked document, attempting to find the source of the leak, without first determining whether or not that was a Cabinet document.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I suppose that would be a first step. The hon. gentleman, when he puts this question to me, should not do me the disservice of assuming what I said is what he intended I should say. What I said, and I said it three or four times already, was that it is a matter of routine inquiry whenever any document finds its way into unauthorized hands or finds its way out of the system. That is routine. It has been going on around this place ever since I have been here, which has been a few years.

ORIGIN OF DOCUMENT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, far be it from me to try to misquote the Deputy Prime Minister. Is it reasonable now to conclude that the document that the RCMP are investigating, with regard to where the document came from and how it got into the hands of people in this Party and others, is in fact a document that belonged to the Government of Canada and that was in fact a Cabinet document? If the answer is no, why then are they investigating?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it is the hon. gentleman and his colleagues who have been telling the House that the RCMP is investigating.

Mr. Broadbent: The RCMP announced it.

Mr. Nielsen: Well, if the RCMP have announced it, I have not heard that announcement.

Mr. Broadbent: We did.

An Hon. Member: Where have you been?

Mr. Nielsen: I am asked where I have been. I say, for the fifth or sixth time, that I would expect the RCMP to make an inquiry. It is a routine inquiry with respect to any document that finds its way into unauthorized hands or outside of normal channels.