

which the minister is preoccupied. The hon. member should reflect a little more on the question of the truth.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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● (1430)

[Translation]

STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

POSSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEES TO CHOOSE BETWEEN ST. JEAN BAPTISTE DAY AND CIVIC HOLIDAY

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the President of the Treasury Board.

At the beginning of May, the Treasury Board decided that federal civil servants working in Hull would have to take the day off in the province where there was a statutory holiday. The federal civil servants complained that they would rather take the day off on the first Monday of August instead of June 24. The Treasury Board has reconsidered the matter and decided to leave the choice to civil servants working in Hull so that they can take the day off on June 24 or on the first Monday of August. However, Quebec civil servants working in Ottawa were expecting to be dealt with in the same way, that is to have a choice between the two holidays. It now appears that such will not be the case and that they will have to take the day off in August and not on June 24, St. Jean Baptiste Day. Could the President of the Treasury Board tell the House whether the problem has been solved, because it will soon be June 24 and if not will he take some steps to render justice to those employees? I think that such a gesture would be an indication that we really wish to live peacefully in Canada?

[English]

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, the most recent decision is based exactly on the final comment made by the hon. member with regard to trying to find a reasonable temporary solution, at least, to celebrate the day in good harmony within the province. Indeed, we have given the option to the federal employees in Hull in the province of Quebec to take June 24. That same option had not existed in Ottawa and is not going to be extended to the Ottawa side. But even that temporary decision of leaving the option open on the Quebec side is intended to apply only to this June 24 and not the following year. This decision has been made in full consultation with the public service union bargaining agents and we hope that we are looking forward to a happy celebration of both holidays when they take place.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, considering that this is an important matter, can the minister tell the House whether during the week he received representations from the union representatives of civil servants for the granting of what I enunciated in my first question, and in the circumstances, could the minister also tell us whether he considers that these

representations are fair and whether he will give effect to them for June 24?

[English]

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, that is the decision we have taken and it was based on what we considered to be very fair representation by the representatives of the public service bargaining agents.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF LETTERS TO SOLICITOR GENERAL AND NAME OF AUTHOR

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General and it is one of a number of questions which were left unanswered from last evening's debate. Last night I asked the Solicitor General whether he would table a copy of the exchange of correspondence between the office of the former solicitor general and the RCMP which led to the extraordinary decision by the solicitor general not to even acknowledge the letter from the APLQ alleging RCMP complicity in the illegal break-in. Is the minister now prepared to table those letters and, if not, why not?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am, of course, willing to take the hon. member's suggestions under consideration but I should point out that I would at that point be revealing the name of a public servant. I would be very pleased to tell the hon. member, in reply to at least part of his question, that the letter was signed by the then deputy director of security intelligence, who held the rank of assistant commissioner in the force.

Mr. Beatty: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. This exchange of correspondence is very germane to this whole question of trying to determine why the former solicitor general did not take the proper course of action. The Solicitor General has given us the rank of the individual within the RCMP who wrote to the former solicitor general. Will he now disclose that individual's name, and would he explain to the House whether or not he has determined whether that individual was aware of the RCMP involvement in the APLQ break-in and, if so, why he withheld this information from the then solicitor general?

Mr. Fox: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I missed the hon. member's question. So far as knowledge within the force of the break-in is concerned, I think my statement in the House on Friday was extremely explicit on that point.

REASON FOR FAILURE TO REPLY TO CHARGE OF ILLEGAL BREAK-IN BY L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. The minister did not