

[English]

KNOWLEDGE OF PLANNING AND ANALYSIS GROUP OF BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question concerns the police intelligence planning and analysis group among whose functions it is apparently to ensure that the Prime Minister and the Solicitor General are kept aware of what is happening in the security services. Will the minister tell the House whether that organization informed him or his predecessor of L'Agence de Presse Libre break-in, and in the event that they did not, whether he considers them negligent for not doing so?

[Translation]

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, the agency the hon. member refers to appeared not such a long time ago before a parliamentary committee; on that occasion, the hon. member for Yukon asked a number of questions about its role. I shall have to check the exact dates as to when this agency was set up. It is clear that this agency had nothing to do with these activities. It is not an operational agency. It is absolutely not involved in the activities of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as its duties concern the analysis of the information which may reach the government.

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[English]

## TRANSPORT

RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN MINISTER AND PROVINCIAL PREMIERS—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Are minutes kept of meetings between the Minister of Transport and provincial premiers and, if so, could these be made public so that the public might be able to grasp what goes on at these shadow parliaments?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, it is ordinarily our practice at these meetings to keep a record or a summary of the proceedings. I will have to consult with them and examine other practices to determine whether making the proceedings public would be a sensible procedure.

**Mr. McCleave:** Mr. Speaker, might I ask by way of supplementary whether the minister would consult with the premiers of the four Atlantic provinces specifically so we could have some idea of what went on?

● (1440)

**Mr. Lang:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to do that. I will also take into consideration the question of general practices in this area.

## Oral Questions

### BILINGUALISM

RELATIONSHIP OF COMMITTEE TO STUDY RIGHTS OF FRANCOPHONES OUTSIDE QUEBEC TO RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister had a press release or an announcement about a visit from French-speaking minorities who live outside of Quebec, and the Prime Minister announced the setting up of an interdepartmental committee to study this. Can the Prime Minister tell us how such a committee relates to what has been thought to be the over-all responsibilities of the Secretary of State for looking after minorities anywhere in Canada, either French-speaking or English-speaking? What is the rationalization for the committee, and how does it fit into the duties of the Secretary of State?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful for the question, because I understand there have been some areas or interpretation as to the function of this committee. I am grateful for the opportunity to make it clear. La Fédération des Francophones Hors-Québec gave us a very voluminous and interesting report, which concerned the actions of many departments. All I did in answer to that report was to say that I would set up an interdepartmental committee composed of the various departments involved. As is usual and customary, that committee is to be chaired by a member of the Privy Council staff. Of course, he will be reporting to the Secretary of State because of the capacity of the Secretary of State and his responsibility, as the hon. member puts it, for minorities, and particularly Francophone minorities outside of Quebec. That line of authority should be quite clear. The interdepartmental committee is merely a tool, at the departmental level, to report to the Secretary of State, and then the Secretary of State chairs an ad hoc committee of ministers on this particular question. Then, of course, they will be responsible to the full cabinet through the Secretary of State.

POSSIBILITY INTERDEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE WILL DEAL WITH OTHER MINORITIES AS WELL AS FRANCOPHONES

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, can we assume that any minority, who feels aggrieved in our country, would go through this interdepartmental committee to have—

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

**Mr. Paproski:** Just listen, fais attention.

**Mr. Fairweather:** With the greatest of respect, I find it rather extraordinary that a sensitive question asked by somebody who has spent his entire life here, interested in minorities no matter what language—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Fairweather:** The crows can crow all they like. I happen to feel it is a terribly sensitive problem which has to be solved.