

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

DATE WHEN MINISTER BECAME AWARE OF INVESTIGATION OF EMPLOYEES AT MONTREAL AIRPORT ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Solicitor General, and it falls along the lines of the questions put by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby. Can the minister tell the House when he was first aware of this alleged internal report of the RCMP and of the investigation?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): When a reporter approached me in the corridor this morning and asked me if I had read the article in the *Globe and Mail*.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

POSSIBLE MINISTERIAL INQUIRY INTO ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN DRUG TRAFFICKING

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): I must say that that is a most illuminating answer. I have a supplementary question which I should like to direct to the Minister of National Revenue. Is the minister at present conducting an internal ministerial inquiry to ascertain whether customs officials are directly involved in this alleged smuggling conspiracy?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, we are working with the Solicitor General's department and the RCMP to determine it.

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● (1420)

[Translation]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

MEASURES TO PROTECT PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN INDIAN AND INNUIT VILLAGES AGAINST FIRE

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Has the minister been advised of a fire which could have resulted in loss of lives in Sand Park, Fort George, during the night of May 11, and can he tell us whether steps have been taken to inspect all federal public buildings in the Indian and Innuit villages to correct all deficiencies in the electric heating systems and others which could endanger the lives of citizens living in those buildings?

[English]

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for giving me notice. I was not aware of the fire to which he referred. I do know that around Christmas of last year we received a report from the Dominion Fire Commissioner concerning the school to which the hon. member referred. All the measures recom-

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mended in that report dealing with public safety and the safety of the occupants were taken, including the installation of fire extinguishers, panic doors, alarm systems and so on. Next week further inspection of the electrical system is scheduled, and four new hydrants are to be installed in the near future.

[Translation]

Mr. Laprise: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. Since this inquiry was conducted a year ago and this incident has just occurred, can the minister say whether he is in a position to take steps to have these public buildings rechecked and do whatever may be necessary to prevent any recurrence in the future?

[English]

Mr. Buchanan: As I said, most of the corrective measures suggested have already been taken. We are now in the process of taking the final measures, and there will be an additional inspection next week. A similar process of inspections is carried out in our buildings throughout Canada.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—POSSIBLE MEETING BETWEEN UNION REPRESENTATIVES AND MINISTER—DATE OF RE-OPENING OF PORT OF MONTREAL

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Darmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to come back to the situation in Montreal for a moment and direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Leaving aside for one moment the area of charges, because I think the concern of the country is to see the port re-opened and the men back to work, could the minister advise the House whether he or any other members of the government are prepared to meet with representatives of the longshoremen's association who, I understand, are coming to Ottawa tomorrow for the purpose of airing their grievance? Could the minister give us some indication, first of all, whether he will meet with them; and second, whether he believes the port might be back in operation in a relatively short period of time?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, indications have been conveyed to the union in question that I would be prepared to meet with them. I will certainly not meet with them while they are in breach of a law passed by parliament. If they go back to work, I would be prepared to meet with them any time, of course, at their request.

With regard to the second part of the question as to my hopes that the port will be open and back to normal, I can only say that that is my hope and that we are trying to take all the actions necessary to see that that is the end result.