

Oral Questions

Solicitor General to have the RCMP investigate those allegations. Mr. Shulman made allegations against various officials. I am not absolutely certain at this time whether he mentioned labour officials or not. As I felt that that is what he might be implying, I wanted the names of the officials cleared, irrespective of whether they were public servants or politicians; and the Solicitor General did that. If that is to imply that I am under investigation, O.K. I want that clearly understood. But, if the hon. member is suggesting something else, I should like him to have the courage to stand up in the House and say so.

Mr. Speaker: We had arrived at the point at which the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo had put a question to the Solicitor General.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, on a further question of privilege—

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I was asked a question about an article in the *Sun*. As soon as that article was brought to my attention—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is another question of privilege before the House, on which the hon. member for Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo wishes to make a contribution.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour was questioning the accuracy of the *Sun's* article as to whether he was under investigation. Since the report referred to quoted the minister's executive assistant, Gordon McCaffrey, as saying that the minister was under investigation, and as my only source of information on this is that which is available to him as well, perhaps the executive assistant took the *Toronto Sun* down the garden path on this.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the Solicitor General can resume his answer.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as soon as the article in the *Toronto Sun* was brought to my attention yesterday, I called the deputy commissioner of the RCMP who is in charge of criminal investigation and asked him which RCMP officials had said that the Minister of Labour was under investigation and, if this had happened, to give me information on that. The deputy commissioner telephoned the office in Toronto and checked with every source there. He was told that a reporter from the *Toronto Sun* had spoken with one officer of the RCMP, but the RCMP officer had never told him any such thing. He was surprised and did not know the *Sun* had ever printed such an article as a result of their conversation.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question, to get this clear once and for all. Will the Solicitor General state categorically that at no time has the Minister of Labour been investigated about this matter by the RCMP.

Mr. Allmand: No, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP were asked to investigate allegations made by Mr. Shulman. While investigating those allegations by Mr. Shulman, they were given a tape on which there is a conversation between the Minister of Labour and the union official offering a con-

tribution toward election expenses. That is about it. If that is construed as an investigation into the Minister of Labour, that is a real distortion of the meaning of investigation.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**ALLEGED ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE BY SYNCRUDE PROJECT—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of the Environment may I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the conclusion of the Minister of the Environment in a letter dated October 11, 1974 and released today, in Edmonton, that the Syncrude tar sands project as now planned will very likely cause major environmental damage, what action does the government plan to ensure that the development plans of Syncrude will conform to environmental standards.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will refer that question to the minister, who will reply when she returns.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS**ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REQUEST OF LEADER OF ONTARIO LIBERAL PARTY FOR ROYAL COMMISSION INVESTIGATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Since the Acting Prime Minister seems to ignore all the requests of uninformed Tories on my side of the House, perhaps he might consider what the Leader of the Opposition in the Ontario provincial legislature, the leader of the provincial Liberal party, said yesterday. He said "The allegations are extremely serious, and in my opinion these can only be cleared up by a royal commission. In my opinion this should be at the federal level." Will the Acting Prime Minister take this representation into consideration and ask for an inquiry?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, so that the record remains clear, let me say that the kind of inquiry which Mr. Nixon was supporting was an inquiry into violence on the waterfront. We have not said that we will not have such an inquiry. What we have said is that we will not have an inquiry except on the basis of facts which will justify such a serious action. That remains our position. We have not yet received the evidence.