

has power to do—as has been requested by the native people for eight years, and then we shall see if we can get the closure policed effectively by the federal government.

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): I recognize at once that the Fisheries Act takes precedence over provincial regulations.

Mr. Symes: Then do it.

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): If the hon. member wants the federal government to assume jurisdiction over inland waters, that is the way to proceed. But it would be a total fraud to pretend to close a fishery if we cannot enforce the closure. Some of the hon. member's friends sit in the Ontario legislature. I suggest they might be the ones to approach on this matter, because that is where the responsibility lies.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

SEIZURE OF CONFIDENTIAL FILES BY RCMP—DEPARTMENTS INVOLVED

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, I wish to address a question to the Solicitor General, who I am sure is aware that the Ontario legislature has been informed that confidential medical files of a psychiatric nature were obtained in at least two cases, and that these files were secured at the direction of two federal departments. Would the minister tell us which departments these were, and under whose authorization, in each case, the action was taken?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): I am aware of the statement which was made in the legislature. That statement was based upon information which was received from the RCMP pursuant to a letter issued by the Acting Commanding Officer of the RCMP of the Ontario region. I may tell the hon. member that no directions were given on the part of any department of government to obtain the information in the way in which it was obtained.

Mr. Jarvis: Then am I to assume that the particular officer was lying or misleading the attorney general of Ontario; or, in the alternative, if it was not by reason of a direct command by a federal department, was the securing of those two psychiatric files carried out with the knowledge of two federal departments? If that is the case, I again ask: Which federal departments?

Mr. Blais: The information was obtained as a result of the activities conducted by the RCMP security service in obtaining security clearance of federal civil servants. In obtaining such clearance, information is sought on matters relating to mental stability. That, indeed, was the direction which was given to the RCMP when obtaining clearance: the aspect of mental stability would be taken into consideration.

Oral Questions

Mr. Jarvis: Would the Solicitor General tell us whether at least one or, likely, two federal departments knew that confidential psychiatric information was being obtained so that they might benefit in terms of assessing the potential of staff for promotion? Who knew about it, which department, and under whose authorization was this? Surely the Solicitor General cannot avoid answering that question if he has any integrity at all.

● (1452)

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I am not attempting to avoid the question. The question is quite clear and the reply is quite clear. There was no specific direction from any government department.

Mr. Jarvis: Did they know about it?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, at this time I have no indication that there was any knowledge in the department that information was obtained from OHIP files. I am simply addressing myself to the question that was initially asked relating to the statement in the legislature, that is, the statement which referred to express directions from two federal departments. I say there was no direction from any federal department.

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PUBLIC WORKS

PRACTICE FOLLOWED IN CALL FOR TENDERS

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, I believe this question should be directed to the President of the Treasury Board, who is responsible for government finances. It concerns a practice being followed by the Department of Public Works. When the Department of Public Works puts out a call for tenders for the construction of federal buildings in certain areas of Canada, there is attached to that call a stipulation in respect of the minimum hourly wage that must be paid by persons replying to the call for tender. In cases that I am aware of, the minimum wage stipulated is much above what is being paid in the area. I believe the information is supposed to come from the Department of Labour.

I ask the minister if he would have the department discontinue this practice, or make sure that the information obtained from the Department of Labour is much more accurate, so it does not disrupt wage patterns in certain areas and, more importantly, does not provide the fiscal irresponsibility that a program such as this smells of.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member can give me specific instances, I will certainly look into them. I am not aware of the situation he describes.