

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES BY MEMBERS OF THE FORCE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I should like permission to ask a supplementary question to that directed to the Solicitor General concerning the RCMP. As one who has had such a high regard for the mounted police, as have most Canadians, since the days of the Northwest Mounted Police, and in view of the serious situation revealed by the Samson case and by other recent events that have cast a shadow on this great force which is recognized nationally and internationally, I should like to ask whether the minister would consider appointing another judge to the commission now presided over by Judge Marin, in order to look into these matters which will result in the mounted police losing a portion of its magnificent reputation if they are not faced publicly?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, we have now established a five-man commission headed by a judge. The commission is made up of two representatives of the RCMP, one elected by the non-commissioned officers to present their points of view and one representing the administration. The other two members include one appointed by the department and one from the general public. We feel this five-man commission is adequate at the present time, but if further developments occur I will consider the proposal of the right hon. gentleman.

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HEALTH

REQUEST FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHARING COST OF NURSING HOMES AND HOME CARE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, in view of the very serious effects of galloping health care costs on the economy, I should like to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare whether the government is prepared to enter into shared-cost programs with the provinces for nursing homes and home care which would get people out of expensive active treatment beds in hospitals?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out to the hon. member that the federal government participation in financing these costs would not have the effect of preventing their rise in the health area. As for the federal government participation in general health costs, we made a proposal some years ago regarding a financing formula; this formula did not seem to please all provinces and I am waiting for their reactions as well as new proposals or alternative solutions. We will surely consider these proposals when provinces will want to apply them.

[English]

Mr. Rynard: Mr. Speaker, does the minister not realize the difference between the cost of an active treatment bed and a nursing home bed?

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of the costs.

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[English]

COMMUNICATIONS

FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES—POSSIBILITY OF UNILATERAL ACTION—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, in view of the bill given first reading yesterday which will merge some of the functions of the CTC and the CRTC under a new regulatory body, has the minister decided to act unilaterally in this whole field of communications with no further federal-provincial conferences, keeping in mind that the first and only conference was held about a year ago and was to be followed by another one within six months, would the minister indicate—This is the problem, Mr. Speaker, there is no communication.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is certainly a problem and it is going to get worse if we do not stick to one question of one minister at a time. Perhaps we could finish this question before we go on to the next one.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I am wondering whether the minister heard the question.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member would like to repeat his question for the benefit of the minister.

Mr. Nowlan: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps I should even amplify it for him. In view of the bill yesterday which will merge some of the functions of the CTC and the CRTC under a new regulatory body dealing with communications, has the minister decided not to continue federal-provincial conferences in this field? If that is not the case when is the next conference scheduled, since it was supposed to occur within six months of the first and only conference held last November?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member raises two questions that have absolutely no connection. The merging of the two regulating bodies, which the bill presented yesterday seeks to achieve, has absolutely nothing to do with our relations with the provinces. The provinces know that it is an internal reshuffle of regulatory agencies of the federal government. That brings no change whatsoever to the respective authorities nor to the administrative dispositions between the provinces and the federal government as regards the regulation of telecommunications.

As for the second question of the hon. member, I will soon know the results of the conference which the provincial communications ministers held Monday and Tuesday of this week. If the message from the Ontario communications minister who presided over the group confirms some conditions we had expressed to the provinces about hold-