

Supply—Solicitor General

Mr. Herridge: They concerned my beloved S.I.U.

Mr. Pennell: The hon. member for Kootenay West raised questions about the status of certain investigations being conducted by the R.C.M.P. into S.I.U. activities. I can assure him that the measures, which were brought to a halt by certain court actions, have now been reactivated. A large volume of documents has been put back into the possession of the R.C.M.P. Obviously, there will have to be a thorough examination of these documents to determine in which direction further steps are to be taken.

I believe the hon. member also asked whether special counsel had been engaged in this case. Though I speak from memory, I feel quite sure that the special counsel who was originally engaged in these matters is still being retained. All the relevant documents are being placed in his possession and the matter is being vigorously pursued.

Mr. Herridge: Has the attorney general of Quebec shown any interest in this case?

Mr. Pennell: I believe there were some consultations between the Department of Justice and the Quebec authorities, but since the conduct of this matter fell upon the federal authorities we are continuing to act.

Mr. Herridge: One other question; I suggested that this Mr. Heakes be given an opportunity to present his case to the officials of the department, in view of developments since the last occasion on which he had an opportunity to discuss the matter with them.

Mr. Pennell: I apologize to the hon. member for Kootenay West. I am not familiar with the point he has just raised. I do not wish to appear to avoid it, and I would be glad to look into the matter if the hon. member would consult with me privately.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, I wish to ask the Solicitor General just one question.

This morning I received the following telegram:

[*English*]

Sir, request judicial inquiry into my case and that I be called to testify in security inquiry
Calvin M. MacDonald Ex R.C.M.P. under cover agent.

[*Translation*]

Does the minister intend to examine the possibility of granting Mr. MacDonald this

[*Mr. Pennell.*]

judicial inquiry and allowing him to give evidence during the inquiry on national security, so that he may be treated equitably?

[*English*]

Mr. Pennell: I was not aware that any such telegram had arrived at my office up to the time I entered the house this afternoon. Of course, I cannot give any undertaking until I have had an opportunity to acquaint myself with the facts.

Mr. Brewin: I wish to thank the minister for his statement about the Maunder case. I urge that the inquiry go into the original records of what took place at the time. Here is a clear case of a conflict of view, and without a searching examination it might be impossible to determine the accuracy of Mr. Maunder's allegations on the one hand, and the apparent denial on the other.

Mr. Pennell: So there should be no misunderstanding, the inquiry to which I referred today will be a personal one carried out with legal advisers and the assistance of the Department of Justice. I will look up all the files and I would have to determine at that stage what other action should be taken.

Mr. Gilbert: I wish to ask the Solicitor General one short question. I should like to know whether he is planning to set up a separate branch in the R.C.M.P. to deal with the investigation of fraudulent bankruptcies in much the same way as there is a separate branch dealing with narcotics cases.

Mr. Pennell: I can tell the hon. member with complete sincerity that I have had discussions along this line with officials of the R.C.M.P. and the Department of Justice, but no final conclusion has yet been reached. The Minister of Justice announced the other day, I believe, that there was a development within his department relating to the setting up of a squad for bankruptcy investigations. We are having discussions now to see how the R.C.M.P. can work with the squad which will be set up within the Department of Justice.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Solicitor General this last question. According to the statements made by the Quebec Minister of Justice, Mr. Claude Wagner, who complains that the R.C.M.P. does not co-operate with the Quebec Department of Justice, can the Solicitor General tell