

*Order Paper Questions*

questions will be answered today: Nos. 1,000, 1,334, 1,609, 1,767, 1,853 and 1,859.

I ask, Madam Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

RCMP COMMISSIONER ROBERT SIMMONDS

**Question No. 1,000—Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Did RCMP Commissioner Robert Simmonds receive a communication, message, etc. from certain representatives of the RCMP alleging that (a) RCMP senior officers were failing to provide full support for members of the force appearing before public inquiries (b) members of the force were not being protected from unwarranted interference of "their human rights" (c) inquiries into RCMP activities have "unsavoury effects . . . on the membership at large"?

2. What action, if any, has Commissioner Simmonds taken in the above regard?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** In so far as it concerns the Royal Canadian Mounted Police: 1. Yes.

2. Every possible assistance, in the form of the appointment of legal counsel, has been provided to RCMP members who have been required to appear before commissions of inquiry. The commissioner acknowledges the adverse affect these inquiries have had upon the morale of members, their families and friends. This can only be expected to improve when the commissions of inquiry are concluded. The commissioner and other senior managers are most sensitive to members' concerns and have done everything within the legal bounds of their responsibilities to ensure that members' human rights are protected. From the outset, Commissioner Simmonds has encouraged the complete co-operation of all RCMP members appearing before commissions of inquiry. He has undertaken to provide unreserved co-operation with the McDonald Commission of Inquiry and this co-operation continues to this day. However, the fact that the RCMP has been the subject of ongoing, highly publicized examination during the past three years before five different commissions of inquiry has definitely had an adverse effect upon the morale of many of its members but, in spite of this, their dedication to the duties of the force remains high.

FEATHERBED FILE

**Question No. 1,334—Mr. Cossitt:**

1. With reference to the answer to question No. 100 stating that the Commission of Inquiry on the RCMP reviewed the Featherbed File in 1978 (a) was this done in camera (b) what are the names of all those present at the time the file was reviewed (c) at what location was the file reviewed (d) what judicial steps were taken to obtain access to the file (e) what RCMP officers were present at the time?

2. Is the review of the Featherbed File mentioned in the first report of the security and information of the McDonald Commission and (a) if so, on what page (b) if not, to the knowledge of the government what are all the reasons it has been kept secret?

**Mr. D. M. Collette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):**

1. (a) The Featherbed File was examined in private at RCMP headquarters on two occasions in 1978;

initially by Mr. J. F. Howard, Q.C., chief of counsel to the commission of inquiry and later by the chairman, Mr. Justice McDonald.

(b) On both occasions, the file was reviewed in the presence of RCMP officers. It is not in the national security interest to reveal the names of those officers who were present.

(c) See 1(a).

(d) None.

(e) See 1(b).

2. No.

(a) Not applicable.

(b) The disclosure of the contents of the file would be injurious to the security of Canada and the privacy of individuals referred to therein.

BURNS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED CONTRACT

**Question No. 1,609—Mr. Cossitt:**

1. Did the government issue contract numbered DA E0231-0-0799 to Burns International Limited to supply security protection for Place du Portage in Hull and, if so, what are all the details of the contract?

2. (a) Is the government aware that Burns International Limited is a subsidiary of a foreign company (b) is it government policy in the field of security to award contracts to firms connected with foreign interests whether or not the countries involved are considered friendly?

3. Does government policy differentiate between awarding contracts to foreign subsidiaries on matters not involving security and the awarding of contracts to foreign subsidiaries that do involve security and, if not, is it considering doing so?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services):** 1. Yes. Proposals were invited from 11 licensed Quebec security guard agencies with offices in the Ottawa-Hull area considered to be in a position to provide Public Works Canada with security, emergency and information services at Place du Portage, Phase I and II, Hull, Quebec, during the period November 1, 1980, to October 31, 1981. Six agencies submitted quotations, all of which were considered responsive, and the contract was awarded to Les Services de Protection Burns International Limitée, who submitted the lowest proposal. The total contract value was \$419,623. A total of 33 personnel are required every day from Monday to Friday, with reduced numbers being required on weekends. The estimated total utilization for the contract period is 88,572 person-hours.

2. (a) Yes.

(b) It is the policy of the Department of Supply and Services when arranging for the provision of security guard services to contract for these requirements with the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. In the instances where the corps is unable to provide the services, bids are invited from all qualified private commercial guard companies meeting the sourcing requirements and registered with the department. It is our general policy to contract for goods and services, including security guard services, from all qualified companies located