

*Oral Questions*

still stand. No minister knew until several years after that the RCMP had been involved in a break-in. That is what the hon. member wanted to know.

As for how I came by this knowledge, Mr. Speaker, I came by it by memorandum. I did not talk to the ministers specifically within the last couple of weeks; I came to it by way of a memorandum which refreshed my knowledge of incidents which had been discussed in my office with the commissioner of the RCMP about a year ago.

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—KNOWLEDGE OF DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS OF BREAK-IN

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. We live in an era when there is supposed to be ministerial responsibility for acts of department officials as well. If the Prime Minister is denying, as I assume he now is, that any minister of his government knew a few days after the event of any allegation made in respect to that event and the involvement of a federal police force, would the Prime Minister now inform me that no minister had any responsibility for officials under him who also knew of the events or allegations made in respect to that illegality immediately after the event as well? In other words, did the then solicitor general's departmental officials have any allegations before them at that time of any involvement of the federal police force in respect to this matter?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Of course I am not denying ministerial responsibility in this or in any other matter, Mr. Speaker. I am saying what the facts are in answers to questions which are put to me, and I am repeating what the present Solicitor General has made quite clear, that these facts will be restated and put in a complete context, as open as we can possibly make it, as soon as the sentencing of those who pleaded guilty takes place, which I am informed will be in less than a week or two. I do not feel I can add anything to what I have said, Mr. Speaker, but I am confirming that what I said corresponds to the knowledge given to me and of which I have taken cognizance and which, so far as I am able to decipher, absolves any minister from any lack of responsibility in the matter since he was not made aware of the break-in by the RCMP.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL CAPITAL

POSSIBILITY OF DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AS CAPITAL OF CANADA

**Mr. Gaston Isabelle (Hull):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

In view of the many stabs in the back the federal government receives from the Quebec government, the city of Ottawa and other partial and politically-oriented groups in the National Capital Region to slow down or prevent the achievement of the objective it set in 1969, namely to restore a normal balance

[Mr. Trudeau.]

between the Ontario and Quebec parts of this region, due also to the humiliations, frustrations, trucklings and penalties which its residents must endure every day, does the Prime Minister intend to consider amending the BNA Act section 16 to make the National Capital Region the capital of Canada, or does he intend to make it the subject of a national referendum so that the citizens of this region may be relieved once and for all of all that stress?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I take the liberty to reassure the hon. member who is certainly doing his duty in speaking on behalf of the people of his region, by telling him that the government's intentions have not changed since 1968 or 1969, when we discussed the matter at a federal-provincial conference. By means of an amendment to the Constitution, we did propose at that time to consider the National Capital Region as the capital of Canada. As long as the perspective is agreeable to the people of this region, it is one of our projects. I am glad to reassure the hon. member by asking him to refer to the federal proposals of many years ago and by telling him that they have not changed.

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[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—POSSIBILITY OF INQUIRY BY QUEBEC AUTHORITIES AND PARTICIPATION BY FEDERAL MINISTERS

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to that raised by the hon. member for Northumberland-Durham and I direct it to the Solicitor General. My question arises out of reports that the solicitor general of Quebec, Marc-André Bédard, is planning to make further inquiries into L'Agence de Presse Libre affair—inquiries which may lead to a full public inquiry by a body such as the Quebec Police Commission. Will the Solicitor General tell the House if he has been asked by his counterpart in Quebec for information, and will he also assure the House that he, and his predecessors, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and also the Minister of Supply and Services, are willing to testify about ministerial involvement in the break-in before any such inquiry?

[Translation]

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I did not receive any inquiry from Mr. Bédard. The file clearly establishes that, following the allegations which were made, the then solicitor general who I think was at the same time attorney general of Quebec, had ordered a judicial investigation on the circumstances surrounding the APLQ affair. This investigation is about to come to its conclusion; therefore I think it would be premature to make any other comment on this matter at this time.