

Oral Questions

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, we have noted your judgment and the words for the time being and we reserve our right, of course, to pursue this matter when the judgment is rendered by the court on the issue of political interference with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*Translation*]

MEMBER OF THE SENATE

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General and concerns the activities of the Senator Michel Cogger, who just stated in the Senate that he wants his inquiry before the Senate postponed until there has been a police investigation.

My question does not concern the operations that attracted the attention of the RCMP last week but a case of which the RCMP and the government have been aware since last January.

Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of a bill for \$110,000 and dated February 1, 1988, sent by Senator Cogger to a company called GigaMos. According to the bill, this amount was in payment for, and I quote: "General, corporate and government relations consulting fees from December 1986 to date, including more specifically: intensive representations—numerous telephone conversations, meetings and discussions with, among other people, Charles McMillan, adviser, and Bernard A. Roy, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of Canada".

Could the Solicitor General inform the House whether the RCMP, which has been aware of this matter for ten months, has conducted an investigation to find out whether Senator Cogger violated the provisions of Section 124 of the Criminal Code, and if so, what the results were of this investigation?

Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member ought to know that it is not customary for the Solicitor General, whoever he may be, to comment on investigations that may or may not have been conducted by the RCMP. I think we should respect the work done by the RCMP and let them do their job.

If the Hon. Member has any charges to make of any comments, he should go to the RCMP himself and give them the facts that were brought to his attention.

• (1430)

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I think the Solicitor General should take a look at this bill for services rendered by the senator and draw his own conclusions. In any case,—

[*English*]

I want to put a question to the Prime Minister. We are talking about the way in which the Prime Minister's office deals with the senator who just happens to be a law school friend of the Prime Minister and who was his leadership campaign chairman and co-chairman of the 1988 campaign.

I want to know from the Prime Minister whether he was made aware at that time that Senator Cogger was lobbying his principal secretary on behalf of GigaMos Corporation, and whether the Prime Minister was aware that Senator Cogger intended, and later submitted a bill, to GigaMos Corporation for \$110,000?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe that this information came to light during the course of the last year. It was made public many months ago, during the course of a civil trial in Montreal. It was commented upon by the principals at the time. There was a list of witnesses who were called or were to have been called. A judgment has already been rendered by the superior court of Quebec.

I think that the matter has been disposed of, but if there is an appeal, so be it.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The senator was not party to that action. He was involved by way of evidence introduced in that action, which was a civil action.

I am talking about the way that the Prime Minister deals with a senator who just happens to be a long-time friend and a long-time political associate. Can we have the assurance of the Prime Minister that he will advise the House of whether he was made aware of the entreaties and lobbying of Senator Cogger with his principal secretary, for a fee? Can we have the assurance of the Prime Minister that in relation to matters currently under investigation by the RCMP concerning Senator Cogger—and we have not been able to obtain from the Solicitor General whether the events of 10 months ago were ever investigated—in the current context that