

This comes about because I asked for the supplying of copies of all letters, papers and studies concerning the move of RCMP Headquarters "E" Division from Victoria to Vancouver, British Columbia. The House agreed to the motion, which was No. 51, on June 3 and the papers which have been supplied by the Solicitor General (Mr. Kaplan) came into my possession on June 11.

The paper that he supplied to me consists of five pages. The front page is a kind of cover sheet signed by someone, I have no idea who, for the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Pinard). The next page is another order sheet which reiterates what I said when I put down the order for the production of papers. At the bottom it says, "Attached—Summary of Organization Study "E" Division". It then goes on for two and one third pages with something that is unsigned. The heading is "Summary of Organization Study "E" Division". It is unsigned, undated and for all I know might have been written by somebody in the minister's office the night before it was tabled. This is all that the Solicitor General provided to me in response to this House order.

I would like to point out two things here. First, I already have in my possession several documents concerning this move. Two are of some note. The first is called "Organization Study, "E" Division". It is 35 pages long. Another one, 66 pages long, is called "Reorganization—British Columbia". It is filled with facts and figures. I might say that none of the figures represents costs, but I do not wish to get into the merits of moving or not moving at this time.

I have as well letters from mayors of some of the municipalities involved addressed to the Solicitor General, letters to and from Deputy Commissioner Reid, a press release put out by Deputy Commissioner Reid and a two-page document marked confidential, although I am rather puzzled as to why it is so marked.

I notice that when the parliamentary secretary spoke on the production of these papers, he said they were subject to the usual reservations about confidential documents; but the other documents which I have received in such quantities are not confidential. I note in this regard that Beauchesne at page 138, paragraph 390(2)(b), exempts "Papers, the release of which would be detrimental to the security of the State". I trust this is not meant to include documents which might cast some doubts on the infallibility of the Solicitor General or the RCMP.

Because I consider the meagreness of the documents to be in direct contempt of the House order by the Solicitor General and his failure to supply all documents in this matter hinders me in my duties in representing the federal constituency of Victoria, I will move, subject to your finding of a prima facie case, that this matter be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections for consideration and a recommendation.

I can read the motion I have prepared if you would like, Madam Speaker. I move, seconded by the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald):

Privilege—Mr. McKinnon

That the matter of the failure of the Solicitor General to table all letters, papers and studies concerning the move of RCMP Headquarters "E" Division from Victoria to Vancouver, B.C., when required to do so by an order of this House, be referred to the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections for consideration and recommendation.

Mr. D. M. Collenette (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, since I was the one who tabled these documents in the House, perhaps I should reply to the hon. member.

With respect, this is not a question of privilege. The hon. member is disputing information that was tabled. He uses the words "House order" to give the impression that all members of the House ordered the government to release these documents. That is not entirely true, if my understanding of the rules is correct. The hon. member made a request under motions for the production of papers. The government complied on June 3. I stated, and the hon. member correctly quoted me, at page 10220 of *Hansard* that "notice of motion for the production of papers No. 51 is acceptable to the government subject to the usual reservations about confidential documents".

The hon. member went on to quote Beauchesne's citation 390(2)(b). He did not read on page 139 of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition citation 390(2)(1) "Cabinet documents and those documents which include a Privy Council confidence." They too may be exempted from the criteria of tabling in the House.

It is a normal custom in the House that all documents with respect to internal workings of a decision or internal working documents or memoranda are exempt from tabling in the House. It is for this reason that the government stipulated, as I did, that the motion for the production of papers was being presented subject to the usual reservations about confidential documents.

Madam Speaker: I would be enlightened if the parliamentary secretary could tell me a little bit more about the documents which were quoted by the hon. member for Victoria (Mr. McKinnon) and which I understand he received from other sources. I would like the hon. member to comment on whether those were part of the documents which were requested by the motion, or whether there are any particular reasons for failing to produce them, such as the fact that these documents do not belong to the government or were restricted for some other reason for which the government cannot table the documents. I think it would be helpful to my ruling if the hon. member could enlighten me on that particular aspect of the case.

● (1510)

Mr. Collenette: Madam Speaker, I really can only speak to what I received and what came to the Privy Council Office by way of my responsibility to table. The hon. member did quote the names of those documents. I have a copy of the motion for the production of papers, No. 51, in my hands, a "Summary of Organization Study "E" Division" in both official languages, and that was it. Whatever other documents the hon. member may have of a confidential nature he did not receive by a