

that is lacking in this particular case. I say that without wanting to prejudge the very question of whether there is any basis for an inquiry. At the moment, a good deal of the evidence which exists about anything substantial is, in simple terms, related to criminal activity which, in the ordinary course, the provincial authorities would deal with by laying supporting criminal charges. Of course, we clearly indicate our willingness, when asked, to give support to the provincial authorities, if they need it, in carrying out their responsibilities under the Criminal Code.

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### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

#### PROGRESS OF INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—POSSIBLE PUBLIC INQUIRY

**Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Solicitor General. As recorded on page 1941 of *Hansard*, the Solicitor General said:

... if the RCMP ... do not have enough evidence to prosecute then there may be grounds for having a public inquiry ...

He said that a police investigation was under way, following which there may have to be a public inquiry. Will the Solicitor General say if the RCMP investigation has been completed and whether any decision has been taken on the basis of that investigation for the holding of a public inquiry either into violence concerning the SIU, or the question of the propriety of the conduct of ministers.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, the RCMP inquiry is still under way.

#### INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—INQUIRY AS TO INTERIM REPORT

**Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, will the minister advise the House whether there has been an interim report by the RCMP and, if so, to whom that interim report has been directed.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, they have given me a report. I asked if their inquiry was completed, and they said it was not; they had many more witnesses to see. That is the only report I have.

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### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION TO PROTECT UNION MEMBERS FROM DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT BY UNIONS

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to direct to the Minister of Labour. In view of Mr. Justice Norris' recommendation some ten years ago that hiring hall practices should be brought under closer government supervision and in view of the complex complaints procedure set up in Part V of

### Oral Questions

the Canada Labour Code relating to union members being wronged by their own union, which tends to limit procedures for complaints against trade unions, will the minister assure the House that he stands ready to bring in amendments, if necessary, to Part V of the Canada Labour Code and the Canada Shipping Act, to enact further safeguards for the protection of members of unions who may be suffering from arbitrary or discriminatory treatment.

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, yes, I am prepared to consider amendments to the Labour Code with respect to any matters that are prejudicial to union members and which can give the men protection. I might add, with respect to the hiring hall practice, as agreed to in the collective agreement between the SIU and the employers involved in this case, no opinion has been expressed yet that this practice is illegal in the context of the present Labour Code. But that does not mean, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, that there cannot be improvements. We are looking at them.

#### ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REFERENCE TO MEMBER FOR HAMILTON WEST—REQUEST TO SEE REPORT

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I understand, in my absence during the past couple of weeks, that my name was mentioned in a taped report in which the Minister of Labour was involved. I understand that the Minister of Labour has had an opportunity to look at the tape and to seek the advice of cabinet and of the Prime Minister. As my name was mentioned on the tape, will the Solicitor General give me the opportunity to look at the tape and/or report, in order that I can take the matter up with the leader of my party and front bench members in the same way as the Minister of Labour was able to take up this matter with his colleagues.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I received no documents, tapes or evidence in which the hon. member's name was mentioned.

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### TRANSPORT

#### IMPACT OF LIFTING OF FREIGHT RATE FREEZE ON ATLANTIC PROVINCES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ALLEVIATE

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I have an important question to direct to the Minister of Transport. In his absence, may I direct it to the Prime Minister. As eastern Canada, particularly the Atlantic provinces, will face freight rate increases of up to 30 per cent for some rates on the termination of the freeze on January 1, 1975, and as this area depends heavily on transportation for its economic development, which will be severely affected by increases of such magnitude, will the minister tell the House the steps he has taken to alleviate this seemingly unfair burden on the eastern consumer.

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to inquire from the minister what the answer is. I know he has had many meetings with the transport ministers of the various provinces, including