

of trade I had the responsibility of denying the export of fissionable material to France at that time.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): I have a final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister say why it seems proper for the government to communicate its intention to the government of Quebec or the government of France and not to the people of Canada?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Sharp: I am sure that if we had not given a satisfactory explanation to the government of Quebec, which apparently now intends to consider a contract with France, we would have been derelict in our duty.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): I should like to address further questions to the Solicitor General, but before doing so I should like to let him know that I also was proud to receive contributions for my campaign from trade unions.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: I didn't know you were a minister.

Mr. Sharp: There is a definite conflict of interest here.

Mr. Benjamin: I am sure that members of the House accept the word of the Minister of Labour.

I would ask the Solicitor General whether he could tell the House what the terms of reference were for the RCMP when he requested them, at the request of the Minister of Labour, to make an inquiry. Did the terms of reference include an inquiry into political contributions or an inquiry into violence in SIU or any other matters?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): When I approached the commissioner of the RCMP I asked him to investigate allegations made by Mr. Shulman with respect to the SIU and impropriety by certain federal officials. At the same time, the deputy minister of labour had also made a request through one of his officials, and the commissioner of RCMP then decided he wanted the request in writing. So the deputy minister of labour made the request in writing to the commissioner. There were, therefore, two requests to the commissioner. I do not have details of that latter request before me now. I was told later by the commissioner of RCMP that so far as violations under the Criminal Code were concerned, that was within the jurisdiction of the government of Ontario, but that the RCMP could investigate corruption or bribery with respect to federal officials. That is what they are investigating now.

Mr. Benjamin: I take it then from the minister's answer that the terms of reference of the RCMP are only in respect of allegations regarding possible corruption or

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bribery attempts and not violence of the SIU. If the minister feels that that is something the Ontario government should look into, may I ask him, in view of the fact that an RCMP inquiry of this nature is internal in the sense that it is under the government and an internal matter, whether he does not feel able to make public any interim or final report. I am trying to be helpful, Mr. Speaker. In order to make it easier for the minister, his colleagues and everybody else in the chamber, would he agree to some kind of public inquiry in which findings of the RCMP investigation and other information would be brought out?

Mr. Allmand: We certainly have not decided against such a suggestion, but since we presently have a police investigation going on under the RCMP I think we should wait for some kind of report from the RCMP.

Mr. Brewin: Who judges the report?

Mr. Allmand: As with all police investigations, if the RCMP have any evidence collected, they will lay charges and prosecute. If they do not have enough evidence to prosecute then there may be grounds for having a public inquiry, but there is a police investigation under way now. Following the police investigation there may have to be a public inquiry.

● (1450)

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REASON FOR SHOWING INTERIM REPORT TO MINISTER OF LABOUR—REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. Could the minister tell the House whether it is normal practice to show an interim report on an RCMP investigation to persons mentioned in that report and if not, why was an exception made in the case of the Minister of Labour?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): I do not know if it is normal practice, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time I have been confronted with this sort of thing. I was asked to discuss it with the relevant ministers and the Prime Minister and I did just that.

An hon. Member: By whom?

An hon. Member: Who asked?

Mr. Allmand: I was asked—I reported to the Prime Minister with the Minister of Labour.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, since this extraordinary action has been taken in this case—

An hon. Member: Who says so?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):—this extraordinary action of showing to a person mentioned in an interim report, simply because he happens to occupy the privileged position of minister of this cabinet—since that extraordinary action has been taken by the government in this matter, and I direct this question to the Acting Prime Minister—why does the government continue to refuse to