

the fact which I mentioned earlier, namely, that on the average about 600 such appointments are made per year. If the list is complete—and the hon. member would know that better than I—then it constitutes a relatively small portion of the total number of appointments.

GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING APPOINTMENTS TO PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. Undoubtedly, this morning's newspaper report also missed the rolls of Liberal campaign managers, bagmen, PR men and party hacks of various descriptions. My question to the Acting Prime Minister is simply whether it is government policy to create a partisan public service. If not, will he at the earliest opportunity be bringing under the Public Service Commission the bulk of order in council appointments to prevent this from happening?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for New Westminster.

Mr. Murta: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: By the most basic definition of supplementary questions, they must arise out of the response to the original question.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CBC PROGRAM ON ORGANIZED CRIME

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Yesterday's CBC program on organized crime revealed that the major chemical drug capital of the world world—I think those were the words used—was Toronto. In view of the responsibility of the RCMP in terms of narcotic control, will the Solicitor General advise whether any charges have been laid in the past with regard to the operation which the CBC seemed to be able to get inside of and take pictures? If no charges have been laid, can he explain why no such action has been taken in the Toronto area?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): As the hon. member knows, the RCMP is widely engaged in the fight against organized crime not only in Toronto but throughout Canada. The RCMP takes part in the fight against organized crime particularly through joint force operations which includes the joint use of all personnel and equipment against selected targets. This type of operation has led to charges being laid against numerous people believed to be involved in organized crime throughout the country. As far as the drug trade in particular is concerned, one of the main objectives of the RCMP is the fight against the importation of narcotics, particularly heavy drugs, and I think that just by day to day reading of their newspapers hon. members know the extent to

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which this type of work is carried on by the force. There are a number of ongoing investigations by the RCMP into the drug trade in all provinces but I am sure the hon. member does not wish me to divulge the type of investigations which are going on at the moment.

Mr. Leggatt: I should like the Solicitor General to zero in on the question which was asked. He has given us a non-responsive answer. I asked him about one specific operation. Apparently the U.S. food and drug administration knew so much about it they were able to provide slides to their operatives showing the way in which Toronto was supplying illicit drugs to the world. The question I asked was this: Have any charges been laid by the Ontario authorities or by the RCMP with regard to that specific operation, or would the minister at least contact the CBC, without wire-tap help or any other help we know except their own investigative ability as to how they were able to receive so much information while no charges appear to have been laid by our own police force?

Mr. Fox: I suppose the hon. member's question is also a plea in favour of the amendments presently before the House in Bill C-51 which seeks to provide to police forces of this country additional help in their investigations of this particular type of crime.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fox: The hon. member referred to information which was provided to the CBC apparently by drug enforcement officials in the United States. We are continuously in touch with these people. As to the question of the laying of specific charges, I would want to check the present state of the affair before giving a specific answer.

Mr. Leggatt: The Solicitor General refers to bugging powers. The police have this power, it was granted by this House in 1973. They had all the bugging powers they needed with regard to that operation. I am still interested in the question as to why no charges seem to have been developed, and the Solicitor General has not been responsive to that inquiry. Therefore, we had better ask ourselves whether additional powers are needed, considering we have already granted them. On June 9 the Solicitor General revealed—that he was filing an affidavit at the hearing in Edmonton before Mr. Justice Laycraft to prevent relevant evidence going before that inquiry on the grounds of national security, under section 41(2). Is the Solicitor General now willing to give an absolute commitment to the House that the affidavit did not relate in any way to bugging, illicit or otherwise, in relation to people involved in that inquiry?

Mr. Fox: As to the first part of the question, the hon. member obviously feels it would be my job to determine why, when and at what stage the RCMP ought to lay charges in a case. It has not been my practice to interfere with the day to day operations of the RCMP but, rather, to let the RCMP develop the case, as a police force ought to do in a democratic