

ABORTION

POSSIBILITY OF NEW LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS—REASON FOR STUDY BY DR. BADGLEY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Justice. I have put this question before in reference to this matter. Is it the intention of the Minister of Justice to bring in new legislation on abortion in light of the fact that the minister intimates that the present law is not working or is working very badly?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): I have not intimated that. My present intention is to table in the House the report of Dr. Badgley, and I anticipate doing that in the next few weeks.

Mr. Woolliams: In light of the fact that the minister denies that he has intimated that, could he explain to the House why it was necessary to have Dr. Badgley look into the matter if the law is working so well?

Mr. Basford: Dr. Badgley was appointed to determine in what manner and how equitably the present law was operating, and that is what his report will deal with.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED INTENTION OF QUEBEC TO TAKE OVER FUNCTIONS OF FORCE IN THAT PROVINCE—POSSIBILITY OF COMPENSATION

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, Quebec justice minister Marc-André Bédard said on January 11, 1977 "we find it incomprehensible that the federal government finds the means to keep the RCMP in Quebec, given that the administration of justice is the sole jurisdiction of the province and the government of Quebec wishes to take over all the RCMP functions in Quebec". Can the Solicitor General inform the House what negotiations, if any, are going on between his department and the government of Quebec on the presence of the RCMP in the province?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, there are no negotiations whatsoever going on between my department and the department of justice in Quebec concerning the presence of RCMP in that province. The RCMP is a police force which is at home in every province in this country. I have however, in view of the stated ignorance by the minister of justice as to the operations of the RCMP, many of which have been carried out in the past at the instigation of the attorney general of the province of Quebec, asked my officials and the RCMP officers in Quebec to bring him up to date on our activities in that province.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Justice minister Bédard at the time added that Ottawa owes Quebec \$370 million for the provision of police services in Quebec based on the amount of money Ottawa gives to the provinces in which the RCMP acts as a police force. Can the minister tell me whether it is the govern-

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ment's intention to provide funds to Quebec to assist in payments for that force in Quebec and, in view of the statements of the minister, is the government contemplating at any time in the foreseeable future the withdrawal of the RCMP from the province of Quebec and allowing the Quebec provincial police to assume RCMP duties there assisted by federal funds?

Mr. Fox: The answer to all the hon. member's questions is no. I should point out, however, that, as he knows full well, when we talk about police services in the country we are not talking about shared cost programs but the federal government has been offering services to certain provinces, for which they pay money to the federal government, not the other way round.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

SUGGESTION PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH IN WASHINGTON BE TELEVISIED

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State.

All members and all Canadians already know that, on the invitation of the new President of the United States, the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada is to address the U.S. Congress and Senate some time in February and that this is a première for a Canadian Prime Minister. Here is my question: could the Secretary of State get from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation the assurance that the Prime Minister of Canada will get the same treatment, solicitude and publicity as this Crown corporation has given the premier of Quebec yesterday?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely convinced of the significance of the right hon. Prime Minister's speech, as the hon. member has indicated, and I would certainly agree that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation should be apprised of the importance that all hon. members, I am sure, attach to this speech.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE

ALLEGED BLACKLISTING OF EMPLOYEES—INQUIRY WHETHER MR. RUDNICKI AND OTHERS ADVISED THEY WERE ON THE LIST

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. The Solicitor General has now had the opportunity of perusing the June 15, 1971 letter from his predecessor with regard to the alleged listing of civil servants. Would the Solicitor General advise the House whether, in view of the fact that Walter Rudnicki insisted he was included in such a list, he can confirm that in fact Walter Rudnicki was on that list which he has had an opportunity to look at, and can he advise the House whether