

Oral Questions

saying the RCMP are carrying out this investigation. They will approach the people mentioned as they feel it necessary to do so; they are independent in this investigation; they will pursue whatever course they think necessary. In response to the last question, Mr. Speaker, if the RCMP or the Ontario police forces see that wrongdoing has taken place they will lay charges and prosecute.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. May I ask the minister whether he is changing his previous assertion that no allegations were made specifically about any cabinet minister and if in fact allegations were made and the RCMP has evidence as to the particular ministers involved, will the Solicitor General disclose the names of the ministers under investigation?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, when the RCMP went to Dr. Shulman he did not provide them with any documents or affidavits. He told them his story. In the Ontario legislature he did refer to me and he told several lies extremely—what I call very serious falsehoods and he also referred to the Minister of Labour. Now, I am sure that the RCMP will pursue some of the information that was raised by Mr. Shulman in the Ontario legislature and rightly so.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF ALL DOCUMENTS

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary to my previous question. In the interests of ensuring that this whole matter is investigated in the open, would the Acting Prime Minister consider tabling all of the documents related to this matter—documents, tapes, transcripts, letters, communications of any kind?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I would not adopt that suggestion and I am sure the hon. gentleman would be just as concerned as I would be about the correctness of tabling documents in this House which might involve the civil rights of many individuals. I am sure he would feel that a question like that has many implications that would be very, very important to members of this House and all Canadian citizens. I do not think my colleague, the Minister of Labour, would have any objection to those tapes being tabled but I believe there are many people in this country who would take very serious exception to that procedure.

Mr. Baldwin: Never have I seen so much virtue.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

POSSIBLE CONFLICT FOR MINISTER OF LABOUR ARISING FROM INVOLVEMENT WITH SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—ADVICE OF PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. In view of the Prime Minister's statement of December 18, 1973 that "A minister has an obligation to seek the advice of the Prime Minister on any matter concerning a conflict of interest in which he may be in doubt", would the minister indicate if

[Mr. Allmand.]

he sought the advice of the Prime Minister, on what date did he seek the advice and what was the advice of the Prime Minister concerning the possibility of a conflict of interest involving the minister and the SIU situation?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated several times, I did not consider campaign contributions coming to members of parliament or ministers in the process of a campaign as in any way putting that member of parliament, or that cabinet minister, in a position of conflict.

An hon. Member: Why did you send it back?

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): It was, therefore, unnecessary to consult the Prime Minister.

POSSIBLE CONFLICT FOR SOLICITOR GENERAL ARISING FROM INVOLVEMENT WITH SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—ADVICE OF PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, as a supplementary, I should like to put substantially the same question to the Solicitor General. Did he consult and ask for the Prime Minister's advice concerning any possible conflict of interest involving himself and the SIU situation?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker, I did not. I got a contribution from them during the election campaign. Of course, at that time hon. members opposite thought they were going to form the government. I notice, Mr. Speaker, that the SIU gave donations to members of all parties in this House. My campaign cost \$13,000, the SIU gave me \$500. I did not consider that a conflict of interest.

Mr. Baldwin: That is why you took it. You did not think you would be in the government.

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THE MINISTRY

POSSIBLE TRANSFER OF DUTIES OF SOLICITOR GENERAL AND MINISTER OF LABOUR AS RESULT OF INVOLVEMENT WITH SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the statements made in answer to my earlier questions both by the Minister of Labour and the Solicitor General, and in view of the allegations and innuendos surrounding the present Minister of Labour and the Solicitor General of Canada with respect to the SIU, would the Acting Prime Minister indicate if consideration has been given to rearranging or transferring from those two ministers their duties with respect to the SIU and related matters under the provisions of the Public Service Rearrangement and Transfer of Duties Act and if so, to what ministers is it proposed to transfer their duties at least in the interim until an inquiry may begin?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The answer is no, Mr. Speaker. I would remind the hon. gentle-