

Oral Questions

that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police conducts from time to time. I can only refer you to what you read in the newspapers. I think that in one case it was confirmed by the individual in question.

Mr. Speaker, I also think that it is quite inappropriate to comment in the House on investigations that are now under way or that might be carried out by the RCMP. We must let the RCMP do its work!

[English]

REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION ON STANDARDS OF
BEHAVIOUR

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Minister is right. One Member has confirmed this himself. My supplementary questions are directed to the Prime Minister. As early as September, 1985, the Prime Minister promised the people of Canada that there would be "a new standard of ethics package of proposals that would be brought forward at an early date and adopted by a Conservative Government". No fewer than five times leading up to last August, on behalf of my Party, I asked for the Government to move on this promise. Nothing was done.

Given that commitment he made in September, 1985, given the new accusations today in addition to a report concerning allegations of conflict of interest activities concerning a Senator, when will the Prime Minister deliver on his promise to bring in comprehensive reform concerning standards of behaviour for elected Members of Parliament?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend has heard the Solicitor General advise that it would be completely inappropriate to comment in respect of any investigation that may or may not be ongoing. Clearly there are difficulties from time to time involving Members of this House, involving members of Houses of other jurisdictions, of other political Parties. Regrettably, this is a fact of political life, and the police conduct inquiries pursuant to information received from time to time, as they should.

In regard to the question raised by my hon. friend, it is our intention to proceed with the appointment of a Royal Commission respecting electoral financing and electoral

laws. It is our intention as well to bring forward legislation in the autumn in respect of some of the matters that concern my friend, quite properly, and which we have discussed before in the House.

DEADLINE FOR INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, of course the Government announced this Royal Commission on one aspect of what has been raised. As I pointed out, as early as September, 1985, and subsequent to that, the Prime Minister, the present Minister of Justice and the Deputy Prime Minister promised the House time after time that there would be action. It is one thing to say that there has been wrongdoing in various jurisdictions but it is quite another to sit back and do nothing about it. The people of Canada want some action.

Is it now the Prime Minister's solemn commitment that when the House comes back in September, within say four weeks of returning to Parliament we will have introduced a package of proposals that the Government has been promising since it was elected in 1984?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we introduced a piece of legislation, which passed the House, dealing with lobbyists. I think most people acknowledged that it was a substantial step forward, a first for Parliament.

We introduced other legislation last year in respect of conflicts of interest, declarations by Members of the House of Commons and Members of the Senate in regard to their holdings and so on. There did not appear to be an enormous amount of celerity by the opposition Parties in regard to passing this, as a result of which it did not pass at the time.

• (1440)

My hon. friend makes pejorative references in regard to the conduct of the Government. We went to the people in the intervening period. We were strongly re-elected, retaining the confidence of the people of Canada. I suspect that one of the reasons that we were re-elected is that the people of Canada were expressing confidence in the Government in respect of the integrity of all of its members.