

Oral Questions

Mr. Fox: it is also important to let people have the right to defend themselves against some of the serious allegations that have been made. The hon. member raised the question about Hong Kong policemen. I am trying to give him an answer. There was also a question raised about Mr. Chan who was employed, and is still employed, by the RCMP. He has been the object of a number of allegations that originated particularly in the underworld in Vancouver over the past few years. This individual has been extremely helpful in solving a number of drug cases in the Vancouver area. We ought to set the record straight. Mr. Chan is still in the RCMP and is a valuable member of that force.

ORGANIZED CRIME—GOVERNMENT INFORMATION ON HONG KONG IMMIGRANTS

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice. The minister acknowledged in his letter that he had made inquiries into the matter raised by Mr. Parwani of the Hong Kong *Star* and had asked his officials to advise him if any additional information had come to light. That was in a letter written in May, 1976. I ask the Minister of Justice at this time what reports did come to him concerning this very serious matter which he has known about for over a year.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I do not have the report in front of me. However, as I recall it, those individuals that were mentioned were legally landed knowing that there were royal commissions under way in Hong Kong which might result in reports being made against some of them, and those reports might lead to requests for extradition. Subsequently, as a result of those royal commission inquiries in Hong Kong we were asked for our assistance in extradition, and assistance was given.

ORGANIZED CRIME—RCMP RESOURCES TO COMBAT

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. Is the Solicitor General satisfied that adequate resources, in terms of equipment and trained personnel, are presently available to the RCMP in order that they may turn increased attention to combatting organized crime and concentrating on security and intelligence matters; and will he, in order to expedite the priorities which I am sure he will agree ought to be given to the force in these respects, reassess the resources which are now being used by the force to police municipal and provincial statutes which could be done by other law enforcement agencies or even, in some cases, by para-police organizations and free the RCMP for more urgent and pressing duties?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I would like to know if the hon. member is speaking as official critic for Her Majesty's Official Opposition, and whether the opposition is taking the position that the RCMP ought to be pulled out of the provinces and cease fulfilling their obligations in that regard.

[Mr. Fox.]

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fox: That is certainly a very valid deduction from the hon. member's question. As far as the more direct part of the question is concerned, I indicated previously that the fight against organized crime is a priority issue within the RCMP. This is being done at the provincial level, where the RCMP are fulfilling their obligations under provincial contracts, and at the federal level. It is quite certain that any police force would like to have more men and more equipment. That is almost a certainty. I refer the hon. member to the exercise in restraint announced by the government two years ago. I point out that one of the few agencies not subject to that type of restraint in terms of men, money and equipment was the RCMP and other elements of the criminal justice system.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I was hoping the Solicitor General would agree that a more selective and intelligent use of the RCMP's capabilities was in order, but I see that he is too sensitive to concede it. Does he intend to press for more resources for the RCMP and to secure better treatment for the force by bringing in at least some of the recommendations of Judge Rene Marin, so that the morale of the force can be improved and they can get on with their very important duties and not start nit-picking about some of the unsatisfactory negotiations with respect to the provincial responsibility of the RCMP?

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, as I have already indicated in previous responses to the House and in response to questions brought to my attention during the course of the examination of the estimates of the Department of the Solicitor General, a number of recommendations of the Marin commission have been implemented by the force. I look forward to introducing legislation at the next session of parliament, or in the fall, whichever comes first, implementing some of the main recommendations of the Marin report.

ORGANIZED CRIME—ROYAL COMMISSION STUDY

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In view of the minister's oft repeated argument that a royal commission on crime is best handled at the provincial level, will he advise whether he really believes a provincial attorney general would feel he has the proper jurisdiction to inquire into such matters as the very serious allegation last night that there were criminal influences at work within the RCMP, criminal influences at work within the immigration services, that there has been a laundering of foreign, criminal moneys through tax havens for investment, jurisdiction over narcotics, the interprovincial and international organization of crime and, something that has not yet been referred to in this House, the possible involvement of federal members of parliament in this matter? Does the Minister of Justice really believe that a provincial royal commission could properly investigate and report on these matters, when obviously this jurisdiction lies at his door and no one else's?