

Oral Questions

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, I went out of my way during the course of my answer yesterday not to divulge any names publicly, because accusations of this nature have a tendency to tarnish reputations.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Tell Goyer that. Don't lecture us, tell Goyer.

Mr. Basford: Just listen to that party opposite which keeps yapping about the Bill of Rights.

Mr. Fairweather: What about Rudnicki?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, it seems that the opposition believes I should conduct an investigation in public on the floor of the House of Commons.

Mr. Hees: We want you to tell the truth.

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, as you know, a number of allegations have been made by hon. members opposite in the past few months, many of which turned out to be completely unfounded. I am not going to bandy around the name of a dedicated Canadian who has spent a good part of his life in the service of his country, just to satisfy the prurient interest of the hon. member opposite.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Why don't you say that to Goyer?

Mr. Oberle: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The person whose name I just mentioned was preceded in his position by Inspector Cobb and Lieutenant Colonel Bourne, all of whom are seriously implicated in this whole affair. The minister has had this name for four days and has not even investigated or questioned his own official in this regard. We have word now from the RCMP that they are seeking themselves—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Oberle: —that they are seeking themselves or looking into—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—INQUIRY
CONDUCTED BY SUPERINTENDENT NOLAN

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Solicitor General. Following the revelation last year by Corporal Robert Samson that the RCMP had taken part in the illegal break-in, the then Solicitor General on March 31 said in the House that an investigation into the break-in was under way. That was followed, on June 15, by the assurance given in the House by the then

parliamentary secretary, who reported that the investigation into the break-in had been completed. Last Friday outside the House the present Solicitor General said this investigation had been undertaken by Superintendent Nolan. Could the minister confirm in the House what he said outside last week?

● (1430)

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I believe I said also in the House during the course of questions on Friday that the information I received from the force was that Superintendent Nolan was delegated by the Commissioner to conduct an investigation into the matter. Given the fact that Mr. Cobb was involved in the investigation, Superintendent Nolan saw him and asked him to prepare, as I understand it, a resumé of the operation.

Mr. Broadbent: According to a report in today's Vancouver *Sun* based on an interview with Chief Superintendent Cobb, Chief Superintendent Cobb now denies that an investigation ever took place. He says specifically that no investigation was made by him, by Superintendent Nolan or apparently by anyone else. I quote from what he says in today's paper:

It was the press that indicated that an investigation was being made. In actual fact what I received was a request to report to the best of my knowledge what occurred.

The House has been left with the impression from the last year's statements made by a variety of Solicitors General and the Prime Minister that this matter was thoroughly investigated. We now have it from Mr. Cobb that there was no investigation. Indeed, we have his word that he, the person who authorized the raid in the first place, was asked to prepare a report on the raid. The person who authorized the raid has denied that there was an investigation. Will the minister clarify for the House whether an investigation was actually made at that time or simply a report prepared by the man who himself authorized the raid?

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, no doubt the individual who authorized the raid was subsequently brought before the court, along with the other two officers of the other two police forces, and was asked for all the information he had in his possession concerning the raid. My understanding is that this was done at the request of the force and Superintendent Nolan was charged with that operation. I do not know whether the House wishes to call that an investigation or a question of terminology. I would think it is a question of terminology. The hon. member is overlooking the important fact that from that point on there was continued and full co-operation between the force and the attorney general of the province of Quebec, that the Commissioner of the force indicated he was meeting with the investigator of the Quebec attorney general's department to give him any information requested by the attorney general of the province of Quebec. To my mind, that is complete and full co-operation. At no point during the subsequent hearings has there been any criticism by the attorney general of the province of Quebec, the prosecutor or the courts to the effect that any information did not come forward from the force as and when requested.