

working at federal airports in Canada have security clearance checks before they get jobs in airports?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to look at the procedures to see if any change is required.

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[Translation]

AIR CANADA

DENIAL OF USE OF FRENCH BY PILOTS COMMUNICATING WITH AIRPORTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Serge Joyal (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

Further to the answer given by the minister to a question asked earlier by one of our colleagues that the prohibition of the French language would apply to the technical aspect of air communications, can the minister inform the House what he means by the technical aspect, the air-ground or ground-air communications between pilots and the control tower, or whether he intends to include any conversation between flight personnel on a Crown company aircraft?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think in its wording it would seem to apply to technical conversations, that is to say working conversations of a technical nature between the pilot and co-pilot. From the comment which Air Canada made I am not sure if it was ever intended to apply in that detailed fashion, and that is why Air Canada is issuing an explanation of it and will be issuing a longer directive to replace the rather short and misleading one which it has issued.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ISSUING WARRANTS TO SEARCH OFFICES OF TORONTO "SUN"—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I realize that the Prime Minister has to be absent from time to time. I intended to direct some questions to him, and I will reserve my right in that regard after having directed questions to the Minister of Justice, who says he does not know anything about the issuing of these warrants, which actually constitute, on the face of it, infringement of freedom of the press. When asked by the press about the circumstances, the Prime Minister said "shove it".

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The Solicitor General said he does not know anything about it. I ask the minister to advise whether this is a conspiracy of silence on the part of members of the government, each passing the buck to the Mounted Police to get out of the difficulties in which they find themselves.

Oral Questions

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the RCMP operates within the confines of the law and general directions by the government, but the government does not interfere in individual investigations; it follows the law.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Does the minister recall that a few days ago in connection with the laying of charges by the Mounted Police in Ottawa rather than in Quebec the government took the attitude that this was very wrong and that the Mounted Police should not make such decisions without government concurrence and agreement?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the minister this: what are the provisions of the statute—and I know the provisions, but I want the minister to enlighten the House—with regard to the issuing of warrants in respect of serious emergency conditions in connection with the security of Canada? Does the law not require the Solicitor General or the Minister of Justice to have some responsibility?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Diefenbaker: I will be glad to hear the postponed explanation of the minister in a moment.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have got them all asking. Even the former minister of justice, when he carried on to upset the administration of justice—

Some hon. Members: Question.

An hon. Member: Ten o'clock.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I ask the Solicitor General, does he want the House and the country to believe that he was as surprised as the Prime Minister pretended to be when asked questions by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar on Friday?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Would the right hon. gentleman put his question?

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have much difficulty getting attention, but I must make my question simple so that the Solicitor General can understand me. Is the security of this nation not in jeopardy as a result of the fact that the Solicitor General or the Minister of Justice know nothing about action to be taken regarding one of the most serious offences which can be committed against the security of Canada?

Mr. Allmand: The law does not require that the Solicitor General or the Attorney General be consulted or approve when a warrant is issued under the Official Secrets Act. If the right hon. member knows the law so well, he should know that that is clearly in the law. Obviously, the judge was satisfied that the warrant should be issued and issued the warrant.

An hon. Member: It was a J.P.