

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I thought it was quite clear from the statement made by the Solicitor General on Friday that of course the government has jurisdiction to look into the matter. The Solicitor General looked into it and I looked into it.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** The Solicitor General made a statement on Friday which conveys our knowledge of the facts in every detail that we can muster. If the opposition has some questions to ask, then let them ask the Solicitor General or myself, and we will endeavour to do the best we can.

ALLEGED DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS—POSSIBILITY OF  
PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH MINISTER

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Solicitor General. Could the minister confirm reports, which I have received, that up to two tons of confidential files and data were destroyed by the RCMP in Montreal on June 2 and June 3, 1977; and could he confirm further that this action, involving the destruction of probably hundreds of man-years of work by the force, was initiated because of the implications of an inquiry being conducted by the government of the Parti québécois, rather than under federal auspices? Finally, will the minister tell us whether he or the Minister of Justice were consulted before this action was taken, and did he approve of it?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Shrug that one off, if you can.

**Mr. Hees:** Is it shrugging or shredding this time?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the hon. member is referring to the destruction of documents which would have taken place during the course of the past month. As far as I am concerned, I am not aware of any destruction of documents whatsoever. If the hon. member is aware of the destruction of documents in the furtherance of a possible cover-up of an illegal action, it is incumbent on him to give me the evidence so that appropriate action can be taken by this government.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** He just did so.

**Mr. Paproski:** How many shredders did you buy, Mr. Goyer?

PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE  
LIBRE—POSSIBILITY OF CONSULTATION WITH MINISTER PRIOR  
TO QUEBEC INQUIRY

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that the opposition have had to bring facts before the Solicitor General.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. MacKay:** Surely the Solicitor General must realize that there is fault, not just in the upper echelons of the RCMP but as well in the way the Solicitor General's own office has been handling any RCMP initiatives so far as concealment or cover-up is concerned, which should have been made abundantly clear to the Solicitor General in the past. Will he not reconsider and recommend to the Prime Minister that an impartial jurist or some outstanding person be put in charge of looking into this whole matter, so that we will not be leaving the RCMP to the mercy of an inquiry by a provincial government? Would the Solicitor General also tell us whether in the meantime, although he had no previous advance warning, on his own admission, of this inquiry to be called by the government of Quebec, there has been any constructive dialogue?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I already find at the moment that the RCMP is not left to the mercy of an inquiry by a public body or by somebody appointed under the jurisdiction of the department of justice or attorney general of the province of Quebec. In view of the type of fatuous allegations which have been made this afternoon, if they are left to the mercy of questions which really raise innuendos and allegations, and if the hon. member really has at heart the reputation of the force, as I think all Canadians have, then instead of making generalized allegations which bear on the reputation on the force, if he had brought the specifics of the allegations, which I have heard for the first time this afternoon, to my personal attention, I may have been able to verify them, before the hon. member raised them in a public manner and cast aspersions on the force.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Fox:** Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that all members of this House have an obligation, if they have this kind of information, to get to the bottom of it and to bring it to the attention of the responsible authorities before—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Clark:** What is parliament for?

**Mr. Paproski:** Just answer the question.

**Mr. Fox:** As to the second part of the hon. member's question, my deputy minister has today communicated to me that he is getting in touch with the deputy minister of justice of the province of Quebec in order to ascertain answers to some of the questions the hon. member raised on Friday afternoon.

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—CONSULTATION BY  
PRIME MINISTER WITH MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES ON  
ACTION TAKEN

**Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. I should like to preface it with an expression of serious dismay that he would not have made it clear to the Minister of Supply and Services that he expected him to clear his name and the government's name in