ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

KNOWLEDGE OF FORCE OF INVESTIGATION BY ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE INTO ACTIVITIES OF SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General I will direct my supplementary question to the Acting Prime Minister.

An hon. Member: Come on in Warren.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, with the presence of the Solicitor General now perhaps I can direct my question to him. In view of the minister's statement that he knew of "no suggestion of wrongdoing by SIU officials in recent years", and in view of the fact that SIU activities have been under investigation by the Ontario Provincial Police since April, will the minister indicate whether he was in fact aware that the OPP was investigating SIU activities since April and, in particular, will he indicate why the RCMP chose not to gain any knowledge concerning the OPP investigation until last Wednesday?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I had no knowledge of an OPP or any other investigation until the request was made to me by the Minister of Labour to investigate the allegations of Mr. Shulman. In respect of the question of why the RCMP chose not to investigate, again I think that is a serious accusation. The RCMP investigate if they see evidence of something wrong taking place, or if somebody requests that they investigate. There is no evidence that the RCMP chose to ignore certain wrongdoing, and not to investigate.

LABOUR CONDITIONS

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ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the issues surrounding the SIU in respect of its activities on the waterfront and its involvement in the controversies that have been discussed this week are not being resolved by ex parte statements by Cabinet ministers, and in view of the right of the public and of this parliament to an independent examination of the whole matter, will the Acting Prime Minister get in touch with the Prime Minister and recommend the early establishment of a public inquiry under either the Canada Labour Code or the Inquiries Act?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on the basis of what has been discussed in this House of Commons I see no reason to make such a recommendation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that nothing has been made known to us as a result of the government's own investigations, do we not have the right to a public inquiry?

Oral Questions

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, a public inquiry is a very serious matter—

An hon. Member: That's right.

Mr. Sharp: —and could not be undertaken on the basis of wiretaps or the statements of a member of the Ontario Legislature. If there are charges to be made there are plenty of people on the other side of the House who can lay those charges and can investigate before they pass on gossip and the kind of half truths that have been—

An hon. Member: There is something you are trying to hide, Mitch.

Mr. Sharp: —put forward here without anyone taking any responsibility whatever. All that has happened in this House in the last two days has been the repetition of what Mr. Morton Shulman said.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre on a final supplementary.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, does the acting Prime Minister not realize that he has just confirmed my statement that all we are getting from Cabinet ministers are ex parte statements?

Mr. Sharp: It certainly confirms that we are not getting any information from the other side of the House upon which we could take action. All that is happening here is repetition of Morton Shulman's statements, most of which have been proved to be false.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

MIRABEL—TREATMENT OF EXPROPRIATED PARTIES— MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Public Works.

In view of the fact that since 9 p.m. last night, over 500 persons have been occupying the offices of the CAIM at Sainte-Scholastique to protest against the policy of the federal government, can the minister tell us whether he intends to visit those people with a view to finding a solution to the problem?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, in the case of Mirabel, we are in the process of rounding up a conciliation committee. I, in no way, want to resort to acts of intimidation against the government.