

Oral Questions

will act promptly, no matter from where the accusation comes, to make sure that there has been no inhibition of their inquiry.

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[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION**INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT DID NOT ACT MORE QUICKLY IN CASE OF MINISTER'S ASSISTANT**

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Right Hon. Prime Minister about the firing in January of Mr. Frank Majeau, Assistant to the Minister of State (Mr. La Salle).

We have just heard that the RCMP informer in Montreal, Mr. Jean-Pierre Galipeau, informed the authorities of Mr. Majeau's criminal connections last May and that he passed the information on to the Solicitor General last October.

Could the Prime Minister explain why the Government did nothing about Mr. Majeau in May or October and why it did not take any action until *Maclean's* started to investigate?

• (1140)

[English]

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, under House rules it is impossible to comment on an individual case, and it is in accordance with established practice. It should be understood that, for investigative reasons, the existence of a confidential source could neither be confirmed nor denied. I would also like to refer the Hon. Member back to the statement made, or point of order, by the Solicitor General on January 20 indicating the timing of all events taking place in that particular case.

WITHDRAWAL OF POLICE PROTECTION FROM INFORMANT

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister, in view of his statement just made that the police will act promptly if any allegations are made. Can he explain why it took almost a year before action was taken in Mr. Majeau's case, and only when it came to the attention of the press? Is the Prime Minister aware of Mr. Galipeau's statement that he has had his police protection as an informant withdrawn because his statements to the press embarrassed the Government? What kind of message is that to people who may have information about the Oerlikon affair that if they bring that information to the police they may too find their rights infringed upon because they embarrassed the Government?

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member refers to the press. It is very clear when the Solicitor General received

that first information. The Hon. Member also mentioned that an individual had his protection withdrawn. It has to be understood that if the RCMP has a confidential source, and if there is a legitimate threat, protection has to be given—if there is a legitimate threat made against any individual.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of Hon. Members the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Bruce Strachan, Minister of Intergovernmental Relations for the Province of British Columbia.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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MEDICAL CARE**TREATMENT OF VICTIMS OF BRAIN DAMAGE**

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. There are 400 centres in the United States which specialize in the rehabilitation of victims of brain damage. There are none in Canada.

People are aware of the progress of policeman Robin Easey who suffered brain damage in a shooting here in Ottawa, but that help came from the neurological centre in Cortland, New York. Some provincial government health insurance plans, including Ontario's, do not recognize these treatment facilities as *bona fide* hospitals. For that reason, Sergeant Dan Duggan of the Ottawa Police Department must pay his own way for his brain damage condition. Will the Minister encourage provincial health insurance plans to cover the cost of treatment of brain damaged victims? Will he take the lead in seeing to the establishment of at least one such centre in Canada, rather than relying on the 400 centres in the United States?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for bringing that matter to the attention of the House. I will investigate. I think all of us have been following the case of Constable Duggan with interest. I cannot confirm to the Hon. Member some of the points he makes as to the manner in which the provinces which have responsibility for the delivery of health care, have dealt with this issue, but I would be very pleased to discuss this with the provinces and find out what the exact action is.

I should point out to the Hon. Member that in issues of health care where the service is not available but is covered under the insurance services, the provinces do pay not only out