

Oral Questions

amendments to the constitution can be stopped by the western provinces if they so desire.

Mr. Woolliams: I am familiar with the letter, but I should like some assurance. The hon. member for St. John's East raised with the Prime Minister the fact that the various leaders of the provinces are in some accord that the constitution should be home in Canada. However, whatever method is adopted there should be some mechanism to protect the rights of western Canada and other small provinces, and these mechanisms should be spelled out. Under the BNA Act provincial rights are protected.

Mr. Trudeau: That seems to be the same question. The hon. member will find the answer in my letters, if he wants to read them. He will find a more detailed answer in the reports on the Victoria conference of 1971 in which he will see the formula agreed to by all provinces, including the western ones, for amending the constitution.

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MUSEUMS

REASON FOR DISMISSING EMPLOYEES AND REPLACING THEM THROUGH CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE FIRMS

Mr. Cyril Symes (Sault Ste. Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. Some 28 full time employees of the national museums of Canada have been laid off—many without notice—in an effort to reduce departmental man years. Can the minister explain the rationale in terminating the jobs of experienced security personnel and truck drivers, then hiring employees at public expense through contracts with private firms to replace them?

● (1140)

Hon. Hugh James Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I answered part of the question yesterday. The hon. member added a few more wrinkles and I shall answer those in more detail later this day.

Mr. Symes: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister's statement was a non-answer. As 80 more employees may be declared redundant, will the minister give a commitment that public employees will be given adequate notice of their job termination and not laid off from the national museums or other museums until replacement jobs can be found for them?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, that is precisely part of the answer I gave yesterday. That was, in part, an answer to the hon. member's question of today.

Mr. Symes: But it is not being done.

Mr. Faulkner: The hon. member contends it is not being done. We shall discuss that later.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED FEAR OF MEMBER FORCE WILL ATTEMPT COUP D'ÉTAT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Can the Solicitor General confirm the very obvious fear of the hon. member for Montmorency of a coup d'état in this country by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and, if the minister feels the same way, has he alerted his cabinet colleagues to this terrible and monstrous probability so that alternative security forces will stand by with bayonets drawn au qui vive—such groups as the Armed Forces, the EMO and the Canadian Boy Scouts?

Mr. Paproski: And General Dare—me and my shadow!

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I know of no evidence to support the allegations made by the hon. member for Montmorency.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is recognized for one serious supplementary.

Mr. Lawrence: Sir, I wonder if the minister really shares the opinion of his colleague. If he does not, does he not feel that such comments seriously jeopardize the credibility of that great force?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I do not share his opinion. Members are free in this House to express their opinions, and the hon. member expressed his opinion, but I do not agree with him.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS BY MEMBER OF USE OF PRIVATE DETECTIVES BY CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also directed to the Solicitor General.

In yesterday's edition of *Le Devoir*, there is an article in which the following extract is found:

Outside of the House of Commons, the hon. member for Maison-neuve-Rosemont (Mr. Joyal) stated that he did not have any evidence that could be connected with the hiring of private detectives . . . by the Progressive Conservative Party as such, but that numerous indications suggest a plot being conducted behind the scenes . . .

This statement is strangely similar to the allegations made by Mr. Choquette yesterday, in Quebec City. Therefore, would the Solicitor General be prepared to discuss such allegations with his colleagues and make a report to the House?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I said yesterday, I have received complaints about private detectives investigating the public and private lives of members. I am looking into that further. Until I get more information I will not comment.