

[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ACCESS OF CITIZENS TO THEIR FILES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Solicitor General.

Is he considering the possibility of introducing a bill similar to that adopted in the United States two weeks ago to allow Canadian citizens to verify and, if necessary, correct their files with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, once I have examined the legislation introduced in the United States, I shall be able to reply to the hon. member.

* * *

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REASON FOR FAILURE OF SOLICITOR GENERAL TO DISCLOSE CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION FROM UNION BEFORE ORDERING INVESTIGATION

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a question and possibly a supplementary for the Solicitor General, and my first question is directed to him in his capacity as the minister responsible for overseeing the investigation by the RCMP into Dr. Shulman's allegations. Why did he not disclose his connection with the SIU and the fact that he was not a disinterested party at the time he initiated this inquiry instead of waiting until after these facts were disclosed in a Toronto newspaper, and until after he had made a number of public statements—on the matter?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): To begin with, Mr. Speaker, I think I should point out to the House that I do not conduct investigations. They are carried out by the RCMP. The RCMP carries out hundreds and perhaps thousands of investigations each week without ever approaching me. Sometimes people ask me to request the RCMP to conduct an investigation. When that happens they conduct them completely independent of myself. I repeat, I do not conduct these investigations; I am not in charge of them and I do not have a veto in respect of such investigations.

As far as the nature of this matter is concerned, I think I was the first to reveal the fact that I received a donation from the SIU.

An hon. Member: No, it was in the Toronto *Sun* yesterday.

Mr. Allmand: I revealed it, I think the day before. I forget exactly when I revealed it. Of course, if I had been asked in the House I would have revealed it here.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. Allmand: As far as I am concerned, whenever I was asked to reveal information I did so. I never made any attempt to hide it at any time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF INTERIM REPORT OF ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I would refer the minister to section 5 of the RCMP Act which says that the Commissioner acts under the direction of the minister. Now that the Minister of Labour has indicated that the interim report of the RCMP had been shown to him in respect of the nature of this charge, is the minister prepared to table that report in the House so that hon. members may be able to consider it and satisfy themselves as to the nature of it?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker. I have shown the transcript of the tape to certain members of the government, and I discussed it with the Prime Minister as it was my responsibility to do so. This is not a report that should be tabled in the House. I showed certain aspects of the report to the Minister of Labour to determine whether he was in fact involved in such conversations, and he admitted that he was. In some way or other this tape has been given to this member of the Ontario legislature and others. How this happened I do not know. It was a tape made by the Toronto Metropolitan Police, but as far as I am concerned it is not something that should be tabled in the House.

* * *

FISHERIES

NOVA SCOTIA—REQUEST GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZE PART-TIME FISH PLANT WORKERS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a very urgent question which involves both the Minister of Fisheries and the Minister responsible for the Unemployment Insurance Commission. In view of the fact there is not enough fish being landed to ensure employment on other than a part-time basis for fish handlers and packers in Nova Scotia, will the minister undertake to assure these fish plant workers that the government will make up the difference between their present earnings and the minimum amount available to the unemployed workers before the whole industry closes down and all fish handlers find it necessary to seek full unemployment insurance benefits?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, two of my officials are in the maritimes today discussing this very problem of the adequate throughput to support operations of plants. I shall, of course, be answering the hon. member's question when I get that information.