

some extent arising out of questions yesterday. This issue was raised before the standing committee.

On June 6, the Commissioner of the RCMP wrote to the chairman of the standing committee and indicated the reasons it would be inappropriate to release such a letter, and I quote as follows:

After consultation with my legal advisors, I believe it would be inappropriate for me to produce this document which was provided to the police in the course of a criminal investigation or for me to disclose, through testimony, to the committee any information contained in this document.

My decision is based on the long-standing practice that the contents of an investigation file should not be produced or otherwise made available, save and except during the course of judicial proceedings in which the rules of procedure and laws of evidence protect the interests of any individual involved in the matter.

He goes on to say:

Public disclosure of information pertinent to or bearing on the investigation could have an adverse effect upon these judicial proceedings and could seriously jeopardize the rights of these individuals to a fair trial.

This has been pointed out—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** The trial is over, Don.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The hon. member knows that there are other individuals—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** We just asked for the part respecting Grisé.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, the Liberals change their standards and rules of operation when they are in government as compared to when they are in opposition.

**Some Hon. Members:** What about you, Don?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** I quote the former Solicitor General, the member for York Centre, when he said—

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

**Mr. Mazankowski:** The NDP chickadees are singing again, Mr. Speaker.

I quote the former Solicitor General who said the following, as reported at page 1272 of *Hansard* for February 10, 1984. It is very revealing and has to be put on the record. I am quoting the hon. member:

Everyone surely knows that the Minister, the Solicitor General, does not tell the RCMP when to open and close criminal files. The Solicitor General does not tell the RCMP who to investigate or who not to investigate and where or when to seek a judicial warrant to

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engage in more intrusive investigation. The Canadian people want police investigations to be entirely free of government interference and direction. In other words, people want the RCMP security service to be accountable, but in police work they want the RCMP to be independent.

That is precisely what we are doing, preserving the independence and the integrity of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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

**Mr. Rideout:** Mr. Speaker, that is precisely why we are asking questions. We are concerned about integrity with the RCMP.

When we look at this particular situation we see that this case is over. If the case is over and a decision is made, is the Prime Minister or his office prepared to release the letter now?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member got his facts straight he would realize that the case is not over. It was referred to in *The Gazette* of Montreal this morning:

The head of the RCMP criminal investigation in Quebec said Tuesday he decided not to issue search warrants against Grisé and political organizer Joseph Hamelin because he did not want to influence the outcome of the election.

There are two members involved, and the hon. member should know that. He may not want to listen to the government or trust the government, but surely to goodness he should trust the words of the Commissioner of the RCMP.

What could be more appropriate than that, given the words, the evidence and the testimony of his own colleague, the former Solicitor General, the member for York Centre?

Research your questions a little better next time; don't just rely on the research department.

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### PUBLIC SERVICE ALLIANCE OF CANADA

**Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. The 2,100 federal ship crew workers put their lives on the line every time they put out to sea to protect the safety and security of Canadians, all for a miserly average salary of \$21,000 a year.