

Inquiries of the Ministry

way. It does not rest with the RCMP to say that because a citizen is a university professor, or the head of a large company, or a member of Parliament, he enjoys a certain immunity.

[English]

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor General a supplementary question. In view of the fact that some time ago one of the officials of the RCMP indicated to me during a meeting of the justice committee that perhaps there would be files on Members of Parliament in the event that complaints were made by constituents or members of the public, would the minister now advise whether, in the event of such complaint against a Member of Parliament, it is the policy to compile a dossier relating to that member?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker,—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. It seems once again there is some difficulty about the form in which the question is asked. I think that, as asked, it is extremely hypothetical.

Mr. Alexander: May I ask whether, in the event of a complaint by a constituent against a Member of Parliament, the RCMP, rightly or wrongly, would compile a dossier relating to that member?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that what I said in the first instance still stands. The hon. member is asking a hypothetical question, and in those terms the question cannot be asked. The hon. member might find some way to rephrase his question. I appreciate that the matter is an important one, but a question cannot be asked in those terms.

Mr. Alexander: May I ask a further supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I am just trying to seek information. Would the minister, at his earliest convenience and preferably this afternoon, indicate to the House and to the people of Canada just what is the policy of the government in this regard?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I certainly do not want to cause difficulty. The question is not quite in order. I understand that the hon. member is asking the minister whether such a statement would be made on motions; I am presuming he is not being asked to make a statement now.

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to make a statement on motions. I feel I have replied to the question and if the member does not understand me clearly, I wish he could be more specific.

[Mr. Goyer.]

[English]

ALLEGED RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND PREMIER RESPECTING PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC GATHERINGS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Solicitor General. In view of Premier Campbell's statement that the RCMP advised him of the necessity of introducing the public order act in the province of Prince Edward Island, may I ask the minister whether any such recommendations were made by the RCMP to the premier of Prince Edward Island? If so, were these made with the minister's knowledge and consent?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, if this was done by the police authorities of Prince Edward Island, it was done as such, by police authorities that are under contract, but are necessarily employed by the province, and are required to give advice on the requests made by the government concerned.

[English]

SURVEILLANCE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS IN WHICH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT PARTICIPATE

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Solicitor General. Some weeks ago I placed on the order paper a question with regard to the security investigation procedures of that branch of the RCMP. I hope the minister will shortly answer that question. However, at this time I should like to ask him, through you, Sir, whether it is now the practice of the RCMP to photograph, and in other ways cover public meetings in which members of this House as well as civic officials, might participate, as was recently indicated by the premier of Prince Edward Island.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, some hon. members seem to think that they are in the United States. I do not know whether it is the practice or not. What motivates the decisions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is the need to take action. There is certainly no systematic policy about citizens. Events lead us. If some methods have to be used with regard to an individual, it is because there is a clear indication that it is necessary.

[English]

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. It is obvious that the Solicitor General has today failed to clear up a very important point that affects this member of the House inasmuch as reports in today's papers indicate that possibly RCMP surveillance, and by way of implication some form of intimidation, may in fact be exercised by members of the RCMP with respect to members of this House. I would invite the minister, at the earliest possible date, to clarify any possible danger that this kind of intimidation will become a consistent practice in this country.