



Letters to the editor...

✉ **STEPPING STONE TO COMMERCIAL CRIME**

Dear Editor,

With reference to the article "Economic Crime Directorate Celebrates 25th Anniversary" (*Quarterly* Vol. 57, No. 4), I wish to add a few facts relating to the investigation of "white collar crime" by the RCMP before the Economic Crime Directorate came into being.

Undoubtedly, as this well-written article in the Fall 1992 points out, RCMP investigation of such crime took a major step forward when, in 1956, the Force became involved "in the realm of fraudulent activity associated with the insolvency process". This came about as a result of the inordinate number of bankruptcies, many suspected as fraudulent, that the Superintendent of Bankruptcies was faced with at that time.

Investigation of white collar crime by the RCMP, however, had taken place for several years prior to 1956. It was at a time when the term "white collar crime" was seldom heard. A group of investigators was attached to the Preventive Service Branch. They formed what was then known as the "Fraud Squad". The investigators, three in Number, were: Sgt. J.G.E. Murray (later superintendent), a graduate in Commerce; Sgt. J.E. Rutherford, a graduate lawyer, and Sgt. G.J. (Gerry) Carroll, a very experienced criminal investigator.

They moved about the country as required, but in 1954 and 1955, they spent most of their time in Newfoundland investigating a case of provincial government fraud. It

became known as the "Valdamis Case". It was a lengthy investigation which ended successfully. Valdamis received a four-year prison sentence.

No one could have imagined in the 1950s that commercial fraud investigations would expand as they have in the past 40 years, any more than we can today imagine what kind of police system will be battling commercial fraud 40 years hence. However, I am sure that those employed on such work at that time, and when the Force will be celebrating its 163rd birthday, will find it of a great interest to learn that during the early 1950s, when the term "white collar crime" was in its infancy, that three very well qualified members of the RCMP were beginning to attack it.

D/Commr. W.H. Kelly
Ottawa, Ontario

✉ **INVITATION TO CORNWALL**

Dear Editor,

My husband retired from the RCMP in May last year, and agreed to join me in following my dream: we moved to the west coast of Cornwall. We have spent the last six months restoring an old Victorian house made of granite, which held many surprises and unlisted attractions, including a multi-layered mushroom growing "inside", one of the rooms!

The pace of life, the spectacular rugged coastline, not dissimilar to Nova Scotia, has captured our interest and provided many adventures and certainly a change of lifestyle. Our new home is situated within view of the Coastal Footpath, ruined