

believe the innuendoes and accusations brought against this member by members of the underworld in Vancouver rather than the version the officers of the force gave.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I listened very carefully to the minister yesterday, and he did not deal with this question. In view of these serious allegations regarding possible collusion with criminal elements in drug trafficking on the west coast and possible infiltration of the RCMP, does the minister intend as Solicitor General to conduct an investigation into these very serious charges to clear the good name of the RCMP?

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, we on this side of the House feel that there is no need to clear the good name of the RCMP because the RCMP has a good name.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fox: The RCMP is extremely concerned—as any other police force would be—about the possibility of infiltration, and any allegations to that effect are indeed investigated very seriously by the force. However, up to now the RCMP has been unable to substantiate, following its own internal investigations, any allegations made against members of the force.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, is the Solicitor General, on his own initiative, prepared to contact the producers of that CBC program to ask them to produce any evidence they may have to substantiate these allegations?

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, I am informed by the RCMP that the producers of the program were indeed interviewed by some members of the RCMP. They were asked to indicate the sources of these allegations. It turned out that the sources they had were apparently the same sources that the RCMP had investigated following allegations which had been made, once again by underworld elements in the Vancouver city area, in an obvious effort to discredit the force. After the explanation that the RCMP gave to the producers of the CBC, my information is that the CBC decided to produce the show notwithstanding.

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● (1440)

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM

ALLEGEDLY EXCESSIVE SALARY INCREASES—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO CURTAIL

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance and concerns rough justice. Is the minister aware that in 1976, according to the American Securities and Exchange Commission, 51 Canadian executives representing more than 25 companies received salary increases of up to \$60,000 and as high as 70 per cent over the previous year in the controls program? If he is aware of these totally unfair increases for the rich at a time when the more than 1½ million Canadians living at the

Oral Questions

poverty level are restricted to the \$2,400 increase, can he tell the House if he has ordered immediate rollbacks?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman has not realized this was the subject matter of discussion in the House some weeks ago at which time I indicated I had contacted the Anti-Inflation Board and the board had indicated in a number of cases the increases were related to averaging in the executive group and in other cases to contracts which had been entered into prior to the imposition of the anti-inflation program. As the hon. member knows, contracts which preceded the program are not covered by the regulations. I have, however, indicated—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Apparently the hon. member's colleagues are reluctant to hear a response. I have indicated to the board that given the amount of the increases it would be desirable for the board to re-examine the rules upon which it considered these particular increases in the light of the restraints imposed upon others in the community.

Mr. Broadbent: A supplementary question. I was listening to the response and indeed wished I had not heard what I did. The cases I have just referred to the minister are not the ones that were raised in the House some weeks ago. This is a new set of executives who are getting salary increases in the neighbourhood of \$60,000. It is not the same case list. I should like to ask the minister if the government, in its profound concern with rough justice, discovers that Canadians can get \$60,000 increases while those at the poverty level get much less under the controls program, will it take immediate action to change the regulations so that the rich can operate with the same set of rules as the poor?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I really have responded to the question already. I point out to the hon. gentleman that we have asked the board to re-examine these particular increases. I must say I find it a little surprising to hear this coming from the hon. gentleman who has advocated the total removal of controls.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the minister knows very well that we would like to get rid of the controls program precisely because of these inequities in salary arrangements that give one set of increases to the rich and another to the poor. Short of total removal of this program, which we would like to see, would the minister at least correct this obvious and glaring injustice so that everyone in Canada will be held down to the \$2,400 per year increase as long as one Canadian is held down to that level?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I have already said twice to the hon. gentleman that that is exactly what we have asked the board to consider.