

ask him to reconsider what he has done and complete his statement by reading to the House the terms of reference of this royal commission.

An hon. Member: Or include them as an appendix to *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has made his statement. I do not think there is any proceeding whereby the House can instruct or demand the minister to say more or less. There is a period provided for questions to be put by the opposition with regard to statements.

Mr. Lawrence: What are you hiding?

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, if I may deal with the incredible—I must term it outrageous—statement the Solicitor General made, let me say that my party, and I am sure the NDP would be agreeable, would concur in any motion the Solicitor General might move to have the terms of reference printed as an appendix to *Hansard* in order that the people of Canada may know precisely the kind of document to which the minister was referring.

● (1530)

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, I, of course, am trying to find a way which would make the terms of reference public. I tried to table them in the House of Commons. If it would be in any way helpful to the hon. member, I would be more than willing to consent, with the agreement of the House, that the matter be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*.

Mr. Clark: Well, we forced that out of them.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. At the moment there is no consent that the documents be tabled at this time. The minister has now indicated that he is prepared to ask that the documents be appended to *Hansard* as if they had been read. Does the House agree?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: There is no agreement.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I note that the refusal came from the government benches. That will not be lost upon the Canadian public. It was the government benches that refused to have this printed as an appendix to *Hansard*.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I should indicate for the accuracy of the record that the refusal that I heard was not confined to one side of the House.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I know that Your Honour's hearing is at least equal to mine, and I am not going to comment further.

The fact is that the terms of reference and the statement made by the Solicitor General are in keeping with the tradition that has developed within the government of attempting to avoid dealing with issues until the very last moment. It deals

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with very important matters raised in this House by members of the opposition. It is part of the tradition that it only deals with these matters after considerable pressure has been exerted by members of the opposition. In this case it has protested for a period of over one year with regard to the line of questioning that has taken place relating to this whole matter.

The government suggested that our questions were not constructive but rather destructive of our police force. However, today we have the Solicitor General standing up and having the audacity to tell this House and the Canadian people that he misled this House and the Canadian people on June 17 with respect to the activities of the RCMP.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: When the Solicitor General was appointed to his position we had some hopes for him as a man of ability, a man who with some sense of integrity would deal with his responsibilities as Solicitor General. However, he is now falling into the way in which his colleagues acted during the terms of their administration, waiting until the last moment. They have not let us have statements until the very last moment. They have been involved in a continuous misleading of this House and this country over a period of one year.

I read and listened to the statement of the Solicitor General. I should tell him that I received the statement in only one of the official languages. In future I ask that he take special care that we receive his statements in both official languages. I read and listened to the Solicitor General's remarks. I am incredulous. Not once in his five page statement did the Solicitor General mention the fact that the RCMP reports to a ministry and reports to a minister, the Solicitor General.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Not once did he mention the fact that in theory this government and the present and former Solicitors General have had and should have used ministerial responsibility with respect to the activities of the RCMP when the indiscretions and illegalities were reported to them. Not once did he mention this as an issue of government incompetence and potential wrongdoing.

We have been asked to believe by the solicitor general of the day that the government knew of the RCMP's interest in the raid on APLQ, yet in the formal meeting to discuss the letter accusing the RCMP of involvement in the APLQ break-in, he did not ask whether they were in fact involved.

When a letter was received by the office of the former solicitor general, the answer was that somehow he simply accepted advice. Letters have been tabled in this House stating that advice was received through the office apparatus and that he ignored serious suggestions of illegal acts by the RCMP. That has shown his incompetence to act in that position, by doing nothing with respect to a serious allegation.

The Solicitor General at one time stated that he had no knowledge of RCMP involvement. He subsequently indicated that he knew of the involvement but he did not take the