

able and deteriorating postal service. Due to the growing dissatisfaction and anger of Canadians because of unreliable postal services and particularly extended delays in mail delivery, including notices of meetings, conventions, receptions and other important functions which do not reach their destination in time in spite of the fact that they are posted three to four weeks prior to the date of the event, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. Hamilton):

That the Postmaster General be requested by parliament to convene meetings with city postmasters in each province to hear their complaints and recommendations with a view to taking remedial action to re-establish acceptable postal service.

Mr. Speaker: Such a motion can be presented for debate pursuant to Standing Order 43 only with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

SECOND BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE— KNOWLEDGE OF MINISTER OF INVOLVEMENT OF FORCE

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the acting Prime Minister, and it concerns the revelations which have just been made known with respect to the investigation being carried out by the government of the province of Quebec with respect to a second break-in at L'Agence de Presse Libre du Québec offices which is alleged to have occurred on October 12, 1973, a break-in which was performed for the purposes of installing wiretapping equipment, according to reports. Was there any Royal Canadian Mounted Police involvement in the second break-in, and if so, was the solicitor general of the day, who is now the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, aware of it before or after the raid took place?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have very little information. According to press reports a letter was received by the then solicitor general in connection with that, but that is about all the information I have at the moment. The present Solicitor General is attending a federal-provincial meeting of corrections officers, and I will see that the House is given more information.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, at a press conference on November 21, 1973 the APLQ claimed that it sent a telegram as well as a letter. The minister has confirmed that a letter was received, and he is going to inform the House with respect to its contents. Would he also confirm, if he can, that in fact a telegram was sent and received—particularly the

latter—and include that in the answer he intends to give to the House at a later time?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I noticed in the press reports mention of a telegram in earlier press conferences. I have no information on that, but we will determine it.

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL INQUIRY

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, in view of this further indication of a course of events in police practice, a course of events which is clouded even more by confessions at a trial and allegations by a former RCMP officer, I wonder if, in the course of his activities as acting solicitor general, Minister of Justice, Attorney General or in whatever capacity he is answering today, the minister will advise his colleagues in the government that perhaps the time has come in Canada for the traditional line of the government, to disregard the necessities of an inquiry, to be changed so that this whole matter can be moved from the political arena to a proper arena of inquiry where all the facts surrounding this whole history, of which I am sure the government is not proud, could be brought forward and dealt with in a proper judicial fashion.

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I note that the minister of justice in the province of Quebec has indicated that the inquiry which has already been established is sufficiently wide to examine this matter. Of course, he is the appropriate authority in terms of any criminal activity that might be involved. So there is already an inquiry under way.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): There is a meeting of provincial attorneys general and the Attorney General. Is this matter on the agenda of discussion? I am referring to the question of the propriety of an inquiry.

Mr. Basford: No, because it does not involve other provinces. Undoubtedly there will be conversations between particular ministers.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): How do we know that?

PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING DESTRUCTION OF FILES

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Solicitor General. In view of the vague answers given lately on a wide spectrum of RCMP and ministerial activities, I want to ask the acting minister the following question. In view of the very sensible procedures by which National Health and Welfare officials monitor destruction by the RCMP of narcotics, are similar measures or procedures undertaken to monitor the destruction of RCMP files, tapes, ledgers and other materials of this nature? Was this done with respect to the 20 linear feet of files and other materials that the minister conceded were destroyed at Montreal June 3, 1977 on the basis of a report made by the