

and is a ministerial in-House inquiry being undertaken, in addition to what the RCMP are doing?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, for reasons which the hon. member mentioned at the beginning of his question, we considered yesterday whether we should make more information available; but, on balance, having considered all the alternatives and possibilities, we felt that, for the time being, it would not be in the public interest to say more about this investigation. I can only say that a police investigation is under way; it has been under way and is continuing, and I cannot say any more at the moment.

STATEMENTS BY SERGEANT LEDUC CONCERNING ALLEGED
NARCOTICS SMUGGLING RING IN MONTREAL—REASON FOR
MAKING STATEMENTS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a final supplementary question? The House may be interested to know that the hon. member for Central Nova also wishes to ask a supplementary question on this topic. Has the minister been in touch with Sergeant Leduc who is on another investigation, or on an investigation outside the country, and with any other police officer whose name appeared in the report, to find out why so many "statements" appeared in the national press?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have not tried to get in touch with those men. The Commissioner of the RCMP and officers of the force are attempting to get in touch with them as soon as possible. They were out of the country yesterday and will return shortly.

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I would not want the House to miss my supplementary question. Can the Solicitor General tell the House what prompted members of the RCMP to divulge, apparently prematurely, details of this investigation? Was the reason their sense of frustration at the way the investigation was being handled? May I also ask the minister if any private security or guard agencies were involved?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, at present we are not even certain if the officers mentioned in the article actually gave that information. Until other officers of the force have had a chance to speak to them, we will not know the full story, and I cannot say any more about it at present.

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OLD AGE SECURITY ACT

POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE IN ROYAL RECOMMENDATION TO
BILL C-62

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the government House leader? I ask it pursuant to my duty to facilitate the smooth operation of the House. It arises from the fact that yesterday the hon. gentleman brought in a changed royal recommendation pertaining to Bill C-62. Although the recommendation has been changed it still provides that the bill is to cover only those people who are married to and living with

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pensioners. As the bill appears to cover people who are living together in illicit relationships, including incestuous relationships, something that is clearly contrary to the royal recommendation, does the government intend to secure a new recommendation from the Crown, and was what I just raised made known to the representative of the Crown before he was asked for that particular recommendation.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we do not intend to change the royal recommendation. Indeed, I intend to call the bill on Friday.

Mr. Baldwin: You are in trouble. You had better read the bill.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REASON FOR DELAY IN SHIPMENT OF WHEAT TO ETHIOPIA
AND SOMALIA

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Grafftey: My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1430)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. On one previous occasion when the hon. member for Brome-Missisquoi asked for order to present his question, I indicated in criticism of him that he ought to get to his question quickly. On this occasion he ought to be given the opportunity to get to his question quickly.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Apart from the normal considerations involved in the dockers' strike in the port of Montreal, can the minister inform the House the reason for the excessive delay in the shipment of 10,000 tons of bagged wheat from that port to the countries of Ethiopia and Somalia?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, but I will make inquiries.

Mr. Grafftey: Can the minister advise whether in fact much of this bagged shipment became destroyed during storage in the port of Montreal and, at great cost to the Canadian taxpayer, is now being reopened bag by bag?

Mr. MacEachen: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will ascertain that information and give it to the hon. member.