

Oral Questions

the Solicitor General, referring to the affidavit he filed with the Quebec Commission, drew the attention of the House to a mistake in his sworn affidavit dealing with the APLQ break-in. The minister also told the House that the letter in question was from General Dare and in no way referred to the break-in at the APLQ. My question to the minister is what, then, did the letter refer to and why was it filed with the commission in the first place?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I received a subpoena from the commission asking me to file with it a file which had the code name "Bricole", which was the code name for the operation relating to the break-in at the APLQ headquarters on October 6 or 7 of 1972. I believe one of those dates is the correct date.

When I went through the file with the code name "Bricole" there were in that file three pieces of paper. There was one memorandum, and there was a letter from General Dare to the present Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. They were obviously not in the proper file. They should have been filed in another file because they had absolutely nothing to do with the Bricole file. However, instead of taking those documents out of the Bricole file and having them filed properly, I thought it would be more honest on my part to indicate that there were other documents in that file which had nothing to do with the Bricole operation and to indicate that to the commission and to the House, as I am doing today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SUBJECT MATTER OF LETTER FROM GENERAL DARE TO FORMER
SOLICITOR GENERAL

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, now we are told that another mistake was made in the affidavit which was sworn by the Solicitor General.

Some hon. Members: No!

Mr. McGrath: Since we are dealing here with an obvious attempt to obstruct justice with regard to the commission of illegal acts which were not reported to the authorities for more than five years and since we are obviously concerned here with the culpabilities of ministers in this obstruction of justice and in this cover-up, I will now ask the minister if he is prepared to tell the House what was the subject matter of that letter from General Dare to the former solicitor general, now the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Furthermore, since the minister is prepared to file the letter with the McDonald Commission and since this matter is properly before the House as a result of the minister's statement to the House last week, will he now grant the House the courtesy of producing the letter to the House right now?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): The proposition, of course, is astounding. What the hon. member is saying is that from now on I should table in this House matters relating to current operational files relating to the national security of this country.

[Mr. McGrath.]

As far as this particular document is concerned, I indicated to the House yesterday—and I will reiterate it today—that document is available to the royal commission of inquiry, and I would be willing to forward the whole of the documents for which I have signed an affidavit to the royal commission, which was set up by me and the government in July of this year. I am ready to instruct my counsel to forward all those documents to the royal commission of inquiry at the first opportunity.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGED OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE BY SOLICITOR GENERAL'S OFFICE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary is to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. Has the minister satisfied himself, as the minister responsible for law enforcement in this country and for the Criminal Code, that there was not in fact an offence committed under the Criminal Code, namely, obstruction of justice and an attempt to conceal an offence by virtue of the fact that we are dealing here with at least three or four criminal acts which were not reported to the authorities for a period of five years? Has the minister, in his capacity as Attorney General of Canada, satisfied himself that there was not a crime committed in the office of the Solicitor General or in the offices of the government of Canada with regard to obstructing justice?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, in co-operation with the Deputy Solicitor General, my officers have reviewed all the files in these matters, and any which they considered relevant to the commission of criminal offences they have recommended be passed to the minister of justice of Quebec.

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[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REASON NO SANCTIONS AGAINST PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR RAID ON L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I will try to put a very simple question to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister is aware, as we all are, of the increased concern of Canadians about that matter. In view of the fact that the search in the offices of the Parti Québécois was done on the eve of the 1973 general election; considering the many questions raised by some people about the time factor; considering also that the Prime Minister very seriously insists that he was not aware of the behaviour of the security services for which—he has just admitted—he is responsible as Prime Minister, will he publicly recognize—I think it is important for the credibility, the irresponsibility of his own government in all