

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I listened to the hon. member's preamble and then his first phrase in which he said he would like to ask the minister a question, but he then went on to another sentence and cited the act. Surely, it is time the hon. member put his question.

Mr. Broadbent: I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker. In view of the important charges that have been levelled against 14 senior businessmen who have important political connections with the government party, does the minister not deem it in the public interest to clear up the implied possibility of political wrongdoing, which is of concern of many people throughout the country, by holding such an inquiry, or does the minister deem it not necessary to have an inquiry within this kind of framework?

● (1430)

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when I was asked this question yesterday I said this, and I will read it as it appears at page 4030 of *Hansard*:

I believe that if justice is to be done it should be permitted to take its course, and I think the intervention of any other proceeding such as has been suggested would compromise the outcome.

I was referring to the suggestion yesterday by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby. I have reviewed that answer and I stand by it. I can see no way in which there would not be some presumption of guilt, or some other presumption that would compromise the course of justice. Therefore, I am very strongly against the suggestion made by the hon. member, and so is the government.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, in view of the minister's answer I would like to be clear on this. Is he telling the House that in so far as this public matter is concerned, what is now regarded as a public scandal, it has to be dealt with exclusively within the appropriately narrow confines of the criminal law of Canada? Is that the Minister's and the government's position?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, that is the government's position at this time.

An hon. Member: Until the boss gets back.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[*Translation*]

NATIONAL SECURITY**CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN INTERPOL—SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 3 OF CHARTER**

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General.

As Interpol filed over 2000 pieces of information in 1973, and as the Soviet countries, which are members of Interpol, have access to that information, would the Solicitor General order an inquiry into the Canadian participation in Interpol, and another inquiry into the violation of article 3 of the Interpol Charter which forbids intervention of its organization in military, political, religious or racial situations, especially since under Heydrich, between

[Mr. Broadbent.]

1939 and 1946, Interpol participated in planning the annihilation of six million Jews, and also since Paul Dick, president of Interpol until 1972, was a former SS lieutenant bearing No. 337259?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I am not aware of that story—

Mr. La Salle: He is not either!

Mr. Allmand: . . . I shall have to check with the RCMP.

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[*English*]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**DDH280 CONTRACT WITH MARINE INDUSTRIES LIMITED—POSSIBLE INVESTIGATION REGARDING OVER-RUNS**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of National Defence whether he, his predecessor or any official of his department have ever had cause to communicate with the Department of Supply and Services in connection with the DDH280 contract with Marine Industries Limited of Quebec, providing that department with any information which would make it desirable or necessary to instigate further investigative action by the Department of Supply and Services in respect of contractual arrangements between that department and that company regarding over-runs?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**INVESTIGATION INTO DREDGING CONTRACTS—GOVERNMENT VIEW OF NEED FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer by the Acting Prime Minister to a question directed by my leader, to the effect that nothing he has seen or heard yet has convinced him of the need for any special reference, does he not think that the very fact that some of the documents from the office of the Minister of Labour are being used in proceedings, as well as the time gap between when this whole matter was brought to the attention of certain officials of the government, that is during the summer and in September of 1972, and when the Minister of Transport instructed the RCMP in February of 1973, would warrant a public inquiry in order that certain conditions might be clarified?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I think my colleague, the Solicitor General, has made very honest and direct statements in answer to the questions that have been asked here. It is my understanding that he is always prepared to answer more questions in the same spirit. I also understand that he and the commissioner of the RCMP are to appear tonight before a standing committee at which time there will be an opportunity to clarify the record.