

Mr. Ritchie: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Prime Minister and the government regard the expression as being within the rules and parameters of diplomatic usage?

[Translation]

Mr. Trudeau: Well, once more, Mr. Speaker, that matter of medals has less significance to the Quebec people than that of investments. But as everyone knows, while France has numerous investments in other Canadian provinces, it seems that in Quebec the government will be satisfied with medals. I do not think the significance is any greater than that.

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[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—DISPOSITION OF INSPECTOR VERMETTE'S LETTER

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the right hon. Prime Minister. No doubt it has been called to the attention of the Prime Minister that Senior Inspector Vermette, six weeks after the break-in at the APLQ, wrote to the Ottawa headquarters of the RCMP suggesting or recommending that matters in regard to the break-in be put at the disposition of the Prime Minister and/or the Security Council "because of the present political climate." I should like to ask the Prime Minister if he has checked to see if Inspector Vermette's advice or message was conveyed to anybody within the RCMP and if so, to whom?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, whether it would be conveyed to someone within the RCMP I believe would be a question to be directed to the Solicitor General. So far as it being directed to my office or myself, we have checked and there has been no reference of that kind.

Mr. Brewin: A supplementary question which I think directly relates to the Prime Minister and his responsibilities. The suggestion that was made was that the matter also be called to the attention of Mr. Walter Luyendyk, who I understand was assistant secretary to the Cabinet committee on security and intelligence. Can the Prime Minister say whether in fact this break-in was called to the attention of the assistant secretary of the Cabinet committee at or about this time?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I will check into that. I do know that if it was it certainly was not called to my attention but I doubt very much if it would have been called to the attention of the assistant secretary of Cabinet.

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[Translation]

AIRPORTS

REQUEST THAT LANDING STRIP AT ST. LEONARD BE EXTENDED

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport.

Oral Questions

Since a 4,000-foot runway is under construction in St. Leonard for the northwestern New Brunswick airport, and since Eastern Provincial Airways filed an application with the Canadian Transport Commission to add St. Leonard to their flight schedule, is the minister inclined to recommend immediately that the runway be extended to 6,000 feet, and also to go forward with other airport projects in the Atlantic area, to improve significantly the chances of survival of the regional air carrier designated by the government?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to discuss an even longer runway than that presently planned for St. Leonard. I will be going to Grand Falls on November 21 and will be glad to discuss that issue with the airport commission at that time. Of course, airports in the Atlantic region have been receiving a good deal of attention from us because, in addition to the improvements at St. Leonard, work is going on at Charlo, Wabush and Gander. I am happy to say we have today announced the decision to proceed with the major new improvements to the airport on Prince Edward Island.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

BREAK-IN AT L'AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBRE—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DISPOSITION OF LETTER FROM INSPECTOR VERMETTE

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister and follows along the lines of the questions asked by the hon. member for Greenwood. In his answer the Prime Minister said with certainty that the communication referred to had not come to him. As he will recall from published news reports, the report was that the recommendation had been that it go either to the Prime Minister and or ministers. I assume since the Prime Minister has investigated his own case he has also investigated the case of his ministers. Can he give us a categorical assurance today that the communication referred to did not go to any of his ministers as well? If he cannot give us that today will he give an undertaking to report tomorrow? I understand he is going to be away again tomorrow so could he have somebody report tomorrow both upon whether there was a communication to any minister and whether there was a communication to the official of the Cabinet committee on security and intelligence?

● (1452)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as far as the last part of the question is concerned, I just gave the undertaking to the hon. member for Greenwood. In so far as other ministers are concerned, the Solicitor General would be the minister to whom it would be conveyed other than myself. He has already stated that he did not receive that communication. I can ask him to ascertain once again that fact.