

*Oral Questions*

served with enabling legislation because of this possible violation that has been revealed recently?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I do not know to which possible violation the hon. member is referring. The agreement was entered into between the RCMP and the Department of National Revenue. The whole matter was then etched. A legal opinion was sought from the law officers of the Crown. The law officers of the Crown advised us that the agreement entered into between the Department of National Revenue and the RCMP was a valid and legal agreement. As far as we are concerned, Mr. Speaker, it is extremely useful to promote the fight against organized crime in this country. I sometimes find it odd that, following a very general debate on the importance of fighting crime which took place in this House last year, the opposition members to a certain extent are attacking agreements which are proving extremely worthwhile in other jurisdictions, particularly the United States.

● (1132)

## REASON FOR PUBLISHING AGREEMENT WITH MOUNTED POLICE

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** My supplementary is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. If, as he says, this agreement, dated April 2, 1972, was disclosed at hearings with regard to British Columbia in 1975, and again in Quebec, why is it felt that at this time the department had to publish what was hitherto claimed and proved to be a secret agreement between his department and the RCMP?

**Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue):** Far from being a secret agreement, it was never secret. The so-called secret agreement has been blown out of all proportion. This is a memorandum signed by the officials and is concerned with administrative arrangements. As to the question whether the department has given tax information to the RCMP, the answer, when the department wishes to use the RCMP in connection with the enforcement of the Income Tax Act, is, yes. Communication of such information for this purpose is allowed under the law and we acted accordingly.

## REQUEST FOR DEFINITION OF "ORGANIZED CRIME FIGURES"

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** The press release dated September 29 of this year, and referred to by the Solicitor General yesterday in reply to a question stated: "The purpose of these investigations is concerned with the accumulation of unreported and illicit wealth amassed by organized crime figures". I would ask the minister for a definition of "organized crime figures". If there is not to be an unwarranted extension of this agreement and the appointment of RCMP as authorized persons in the case of any taxpayer in this country.

**Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue):** I would like to give the hon. member an answer with regard to the definition he requested, and I would like to say that the definition in the department is in terms of any person or persons obtaining income from illegal activities. This is,

[Mr. Jarvis.]

naturally, a more narrow definition than I would expect the police to employ since their interest would go beyond the earning of income.

## POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENTS WITH AGENCIES OTHER THAN MOUNTED POLICE FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Would the minister now tell us whether there are any other agreements between himself as minister, or any previous minister, or any administrative officials such as deputy ministers, with regard to the exchange of information obtained through income tax returns? I have in mind, for example, agreements with the Unemployment Insurance Commission or with the Minister of National Health and Welfare with regard to the use of social insurance numbers and cross-checking to determine whether there is any fraud involving unemployment insurance or for any other purpose.

**Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, after a good discussion with the officials of my department I should like to tell hon. members that all my officials acted properly and conscientiously, and that everything was done quite in order within the terms of the law.

**An hon. Member:** Answer the question!

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## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

## INQUIRY WHETHER ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS LINKED WITH ORGANIZED CRIME

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Would the Solicitor General have any evidence that Royal American Shows are connected with organized crime?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, that is, of course, a matter to be looked at according to the facts. I know that following an investigation of Royal American Shows something like 105 charges were laid in connection with the operation. I should like also to refer hon. members to an act which they all voted upon before the end of the last session, Bill C-51, which happens to contain a definition of organized crime. I suggest hon. members should take a look at it.

**Mr. Paproski:** That is not what I asked.