

Oral Questions

minister in turn can make a judgment as to who should have the right to see them?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker. We did not make that judgment. However, in this case the Minister of Labour requested an investigation of the allegations made by Mr. Shulman. He is the one who made the first request to me for an RCMP investigation. No one else, including Mr. Shulman, came to me and asked for an investigation. The Minister of Labour is the only one. In addition, in accordance with the privacy act, which was supported very strongly by opposition parties, the transcript of a wiretap cannot be revealed to anyone except the parties involved in the case.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—POSSIBILITY OF RACIAL SLUR DURING CONVERSATION BETWEEN MR. GRALEWICZ AND MINISTER OF LABOUR

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Labour. I am not asking the minister to reveal the contents of the tape. I am simply asking with regard to his own memory of the conversation. During the conversation he had with Mr. Gralewicz, did Mr. Gralewicz make a racial slur? I am asking about the minister's recollection of the conversation without referring to the transcript.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I understand that was the initial question asked by the hon. member for Hamilton West.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated the answer to the hon. member for Hamilton West. I cannot comment on the contents of a tape or refer to what somebody else may have said. I cannot do that. I do not think it would be right or proper.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, there is certainly nothing improper about the minister referring to a conversation he had. It is done daily in the House of Commons. Without asking anything about any transcript, will the minister advise whether a comment was made which could be construed as a racial slur against the hon. member for Hamilton West?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In the opinion of the Chair, that is the third time that question has been asked. Twice the minister indicated he could not answer that question. Whether he does or not, that is the answer the minister has given twice in this regard. I do not know if there is any other point in repeating it.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

● (1600)

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

COMPLAINT BY MRS. PLUMPTRE CONCERNING TRADE BARRIERS IN EGG MARKETING—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. During the hearings of the Special Committee on Egg Marketing, Mrs. Plumptre stated she had reported to the Minister of Justice direct evidence with respect to trade barriers in the egg industry. Can the minister tell the House whether he has received such a report from Mrs. Plumptre in letter form and, if so, what action has been taken to date?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): There was a letter received in connection with certain matters involving the movement of eggs across provincial boundaries—I should like to refresh my memory as to its details. I asked for an examination of some of the matters raised, and that is all I can properly say at the moment.

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TRANSPORT

POSSIBLE CONSULTATION BETWEEN MINISTER AND MEMBER FOR PRINCE ALBERT—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister arising out of a reply he gave yesterday in which he said he was uncertain as to the whereabouts of the Minister of Transport and suggested he might be consulting with the right hon. member for Prince Albert. Has the Prime Minister yet had an opportunity to confirm whether or not my right hon. friend was, in fact, discussing transportation problems with the Minister of Transport? Can he advise us, should this be the case, whether a report of the proceedings and recommendations will be made to the House since this seems to be the only ray of hope when it comes to developing a successful transportation policy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I must confess that in spite of my numerous staff I have not yet been able to get precise information about where the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert is at the present time.

An hon. Member: You seemed to know.

Mr. Trudeau: I said, perhaps he was consulting with him. But if the hon. member could tell me where the right hon. member for Prince Albert is, I might be able to answer his question.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

RESTRICTION ON PERSONS ALLOWED ACCESS TO WIRETAPPED CONVERSATION—POSSIBLE ALLEGATION OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AGAINST MINISTER OF LABOUR

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General