Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I certainly would be prepared to consider that.

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IMMIGRATION

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER ASKED TO CHECK BACKGROUND OF FIVE DRAGONS AFTER MAY 7, 1976

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration and refer to a letter from the Minister of Justice to the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra dated May 7, 1976 in which the minister indicates that "There is not any evidence of criminal offences committed in Canada" by the so-called Five Dragons. After the minister wrote that letter was the Minister of Manpower and Immigration asked to check further into the background of the Five Dragons, especially in view of the fact that they had been given landed immigrant status and under the terms of the Immigration Act landed immigrant status can be withdrawn if persons are engaged in criminal activity?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, I did not quite follow the hon. member's question. Did he indicate that a letter was sent by the former minister of justice to the former minister of manpower and immigration?

Mr. Epp: The present Minister of Justice.

Mr. Cullen: Perhaps the hon. member can repeat his question so that I can get it straight.

Mr. Epp: In a letter dated May 7, 1976 the present Minister of Justice indicated to the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra that, and I quote: "There is not any evidence of criminal offences committed in Canada." He was referring to the Five Dragons. After the Minister of Justice wrote to the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra was the Minister of Manpower and Immigration asked to do a further check on the background of the Five Dragons, especially in view of the fact that they had landed immigrant status and under the terms of the Immigration Act the minister has the power to withdraw that status if persons are known to engage in criminal activity?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, I would want to check on the details of that, but I believe that the information given at that time by the Minister of Justice was probably furnished by the minister of manpower and immigration of the day, in other words, prior to the information being given to the hon. member for Vancouver Quadra. However, I would have to check that out. I do not have information on that today.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST DEPARTMENTAL PERSONNEL— REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, that is astounding because this matter was raised yesterday. The minister has [Mr. MacKay.] had another 24 hours, and he again says he will check. In view of the allegations which have been made, namely, that individual members of the Department of Manpower and Immigration had been subverted by persons who wanted to get other persons into Canada, and in view of the minister's undertaking yesterday, has he carried out an investigation in his department, has he questioned persons whose names were mentioned as having involvement with criminals, and what is the evidence he can now give to this House?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is playing pretty freely with the word "allegation" when referring to individuals in the department being subverted. One person I remember being mentioned was an officer of the PM-2 category. In any event, the way these individuals came, as I understand it, that person would have had nothing to do with their applications for landed immigrant status because all that would have been handled abroad. That officer would not have been in a position to do anything in so far as applications were concerned. However, needless to say when allegations of this nature are made, we conduct investigations, but we could not in the first instance determine that the individual named had done anything or had been in a position to do anything to aid those five individuals.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGATIONS OF INFILTRATION BY ORGANIZED CRIMINALS— GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In view of the very serious allegations raised in the CBC documentary on Monday night regarding the infiltration of the RCMP by organized criminal elements and allegations of potential collusion in the drug trafficking trade on the west coast, and in view of the responsibility of the Solicitor General to protect the integrity and the good name of the RCMP, of which all Canadians are justly proud, will the Solicitor General take advantage of the question period today to state precisely what he intends to do about this? Has he ordered an investigation? Has he ordered a transcript of the program and had consultations with the producers?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am not quite sure whether the hon. member was in the House yesterday, but I tried to deal with the matter he is raising, which I think is a very important matter. As a matter of fact, while I tried to explain the allegations against members of the RCMP, some of the hon. member's colleagues tried to drown me out to prevent me from trying to address the allegations that had been made. If the hon. member would care to read the answer I gave to the questions yesterday, he would see that one of the RCMP members against whom allegations were made is still a very valued member of the RCMP drug squad in Vancouver. However, apparently the CBC decided to