

my colleagues sitting on this side of the House, the hon. member for Vancouver East.

* * *

● (1140)

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FORCE AND GOVERNMENT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Given the fact that the Solicitor General has indicated he will be making a statement next week with regard to the Montreal break-in by the RCMP, and given the fact that in addition to the incidents surrounding the break-in in Montreal, we still find there are allegations against the RCMP in the Praxis matter in Toronto, and there is an inquiry going on at present in New Brunswick, and there are allegations of illegal wiretapping in Edmonton, would the minister give some assurance to the House that he or the Solicitor General will make a statement on motions in addition to the Montreal matter, on all these other matters that are showing up in the press so that he can give some assurance to the Canadian people that there is still civil and political authority over illegal activities and over the RCMP itself so that we can have a full explanation from the government on what is the relationship between the government and the RCMP in dealing with these matters?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member has really answered his question. He has referred to the Solicitor General's statement which is to be made following sentencing in the Montreal case, and I suggest that that statement will deal with the matters to which the hon. member refers. In terms of assurances to the public, the Solicitor General has made it very clear in the House and outside the House, as have I and as has the Prime Minister, that the police forces of this country, including the RCMP, are as subject to the criminal law of the country as is any other citizen, and that where there are indications of any breach of law by people holding authority, the proper action will be taken.

INVESTIGATION OF ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE USE OF NATIONAL SECURITY PROVISION NOT RELATED TO ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): I hope that the Minister of Justice will examine carefully the evidence given yesterday in Montreal concerning the lack of any consultation with political authority in terms of that illegal break-in.

My supplementary question is as follows. Yesterday the Solicitor General indicated that he is filing an affidavit in the case of the inquiry in Edmonton into the Royal American Shows that certain evidence should not be produced because it is sensitive to national security. Can the Minister of Justice, on behalf of this government, now give some assurance to the

Oral Questions

House that the use of the national security provision to stop introduction of evidence that may be relevant has nothing to do with the use of electronic devices surrounding the surveillance in that case?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): I have not seen the Solicitor General's affidavit in that case, and before answering the question I would like to see it.

* * *

INCOME TAX ACT

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF AMENDING BILL

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): My question is for the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the end of June is soon approaching and the income tax amendment bill following his recent budget would have to be handled entirely in the House, can the minister advise us when he intends to introduce it and obtain its first reading?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): I expect to have the document brought forward for first reading next Wednesday.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BELGRADE CONFERENCE ON HELSINKI AGREEMENT—PARTICIPATION BY PARLIAMENTARIANS AND CANADIAN POSITION AT CONFERENCE

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and it is with respect to the follow-up of the Helsinki conference, the Belgrade meetings which are approaching shortly and the great interest with respect to Basket 3 and the human rights provision. In view of the fact that at the recent meetings of the Canada-U.S. interparliamentary group a congressional representative indicated that the U.S. was taking a very active part, both in the formation of the policies that would be laid before that meeting, as well as having a direct participation in the conference, has the minister given consideration to parliamentary representation at the Belgrade meetings, and will there be some opportunity prior to those meetings for there to be some notification to parliament of the stand which the government intends to take at that time?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, on the matter of the representation and the make-up of the Canadian delegation, no final decision has been made as yet. The hon. member is quite right that in view of the structure of the United States there are some members of the Congress who are actually part of their delegation in an official and formal way which, I am advised, cannot be done in terms of the Canadian system.

Mr. Paproski: Why?