

Oral Questions

informed about this investigation. It is not usual to give details of an investigation while it is under way.

Mr. Brewin: A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister agree that a question involving government employees involved in huge narcotics rings is of sufficient importance that it ought to have been reported to him, even if it were not?

Mr. Allmand: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not think that necessarily should have been reported to me. The RCMP investigate and when they have enough proof they bring it to the attention of the Crown prosecutor and charges are laid. Unfortunately, in this case the report appeared in the newspaper in the middle of an investigation. The investigation is well under way so I do not feel I should say anything further about it at the present time.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Rimouski.

Mr. Nowlan: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Annapolis Valley on a point of order.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, my point of order is this: the hon. minister just said that he was not asked about a report yesterday. I asked him a very direct question about that which is recorded at page 6375 of *Hansard* as follows:

Can the minister tell the House when he was first aware of this alleged internal report of the RCMP and of the investigation.

That is as clear as the Queen's English can be, and I cannot understand the minister's answer to the hon. member for Greenwood today. I was amazed at his answer to me yesterday that he was first aware of this internal report when a *Globe and Mail* reporter told him. I have some questions that will come later, Mr. Speaker. My point of order is that the minister was questioned about an internal report and while his answer was not completely responsive, he certainly was questioned directly about it. I should like to know why he answered the hon. member for Greenwood the way he did today, and why he could not answer my question yesterday.

Mr. Allmand: Unfortunately, there has been some misunderstanding, Mr. Speaker. I thought the hon. member was asking yesterday about a report of the investigation, merely meaning a report in the general sense of the report that was given to me. That is the situation. I never had any information about that investigation until yesterday. It is not customary for the RCMP to inform ministers, either at the provincial or the federal level, of every investigation that is under way.

Mr. Speaker: I propose to recognize the hon. member for Annapolis Valley in just a moment. The hon. member for Rimouski.

[Mr. Allmand.]

[Translation]

HEALTH**SUGGESTED MEASURES TO RESTRICT USE OF TOBACCO BY CHILDREN**

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, on the point of order raised by the hon. member for Annapolis Valley, I regret, but unless I am mistaken I think his intervention was out of order because when I rose you had recognized me.

Now, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare, but in his absence I shall put it to his parliamentary secretary. Can the hon. lady tell the House whether she is aware of a program being applied in Sweden to prevent children from starting to smoke? If so, does Canada intend to take similar steps?

[English]

Miss Coline Campbell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the department is aware of this. I will be happy to look into the matter and report back to the hon. member.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**REPORT CONCERNING ALLEGED NARCOTICS SMUGGLING RING IN MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION**

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In the question period yesterday the minister said that he was going to have a discussion with the commissioner of the RCMP yesterday. That is why I thought the question of the hon. member for Greenwood was relevant. Can the minister tell the House now if he knows anything more about the internal report of the RCMP on the alleged drug smuggling activities in the Montreal airport and if not, why not?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, yes, I discussed this matter yesterday afternoon with the commissioner and deputy commissioner. After the discussion we decided that it would not be in the public interest to say more about the matter at present.

POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN ALLEGED NARCOTICS SMUGGLING RING IN MONTREAL

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question? I appreciate, as every member of the House does, the problems involved in an investigation of such alleged magnitude and sensitivity. Since the story did appear in the national press, since officials of various departments are alleged to have been involved and since the Minister of National Revenue yesterday said he is working with the Solicitor General on this matter, can the Solicitor General tell the House, without compromising the investigation, if officials or personnel either of the Solicitor General's department or of the Department of National Revenue are implicated,