

Oral Questions

● (1420)

INVESTIGATION OF ROYAL AMERICAN ROAD SHOWS—REFUSAL
TO PRODUCE DOCUMENTS ON GROUNDS OF NATIONAL
SECURITY

and Resources to the effect that there has been in place a price arrangement with respect to the sale of uranium, I wonder whether the minister could advise the House as to whether his department has investigated this arrangement; whether they are in a position to come forward with a report as to whether this particular activity contravenes any Canadian regulation or legislation with respect to price fixing; and whether there will be a statement made to clarify this situation because of the image of our country with foreign customers and also with respect to the impact on consumers in Canada?

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the director of investigations conducts frequent inquiries into various things and has frequently reviewed different sectors of industry. As the hon. member is well aware, the uranium industry has been the subject of an action in the United States asserting that there have been combinations of price-fixing. Needless to say, our department is most interested in the subject. I cannot offer the hon. member any comment at this time; but I will take notice of it and bring the matter to the attention of the director of investigations and report to him.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED ILLEGAL BUGGING OF HOTEL ROOMS OF EDMONTON
POLICE OFFICERS—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General and concerns the evidence which was given before Mr. Justice Laycraft in Edmonton on June 7, that RCMP officers had illegally bugged the hotel rooms of three Edmonton city police officers. I wonder if the Solicitor General could advise the House as to whether he has conducted an inquiry into that most serious allegation which was made in front of Mr. Justice Laycraft, an Edmonton judge, and if so, could he advise whether charges will be laid or whether an offence took place?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have read the reports of the evidence given before Mr. Justice Laycraft during the inquiry in Alberta. One RCMP corporal gave evidence that he had second hand information to the effect that the room had been bugged. This matter was looked into by the top management of the RCMP. The deputy commissioner of RCMP was delegated by the commissioner of the force to investigate the matter fully and as a result of his investigation it was found that no acts of bugging in connection with the investigation which the hon. member mentioned have occurred. However, the matter, as I understand it, is being investigated by the royal commission inquiry into the Royal American Road Shows in Alberta, and if any evidence comes to light of illegal bugging, immediate action will be taken.

BREAK-IN AT PRAXIS CORPORATION—POSSIBILITY OF CHARGES
BEING LAID AS RESULT OF RETENTION OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): In the case of the Praxis break-in in Toronto the documents that were obtained by the RCMP at that time were held for a period of some years before being made available to their rightful owners, or the Toronto police for that matter. Would the Solicitor General advise the House whether he has received any opinion from the law officers of the Crown as to whether an offence took place in terms of receiving stolen property in view of the fact the force itself retained those documents? Coming into their possession, they would appear to have the legitimate right to examine the information in terms of their information gathering responsibility. Has any advice been given to the Solicitor General that a crime took place because of the failure to return the property to Praxis Corporation, and will charges follow?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): I have not received an opinion from the law officers of the Crown to the effect that a crime has been committed. I immediately consulted the law officers of the Crown following knowledge of the fact that some of these documents were still in the possession of the RCMP. The advice I received from the Department of Justice at that time was that the documents ought to be turned over to the Metropolitan Toronto Police department immediately, which was done. That department had the responsibility of investigating the question of a possible break-in and the matter of the retention of documents, and I understand that the Metropolitan Toronto Police department has now concluded its investigation, has had the opinion of a Crown attorney in the department of the provincial attorney general of Ontario to the effect that there was no criminal act involved in the retention of the documents.