

**Mr. Fox:** The RCMP has been very interested in the activities of organized crime in this country since the mid-1950s. I have consulted the RCMP on a number of occasions concerning the question of the crime inquiry which hon. members opposite have referred to. The very seriously considered advice I received from the RCMP is that in many instances, while a national crime inquiry might be dramatic and make good television, it is not the most productive way to deal with organized crime. I am advised it would be far better to proceed with joint force operations. I would like to give one example. As a result of joint force operations in the Toronto area there have been over 40 prosecutions in the last four months. The RCMP has also participated in setting up—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** If he wants to make a statement, we will let him.

**Mr. Hees:** Turn the page, Francis.

**Mr. Fox:**—a criminal intelligence service, which was suggested by the then minister of justice in Quebec in 1966. Since that time there have been more than 48 police departments involved with this criminal intelligence service. This includes 22 RCMP crime intelligence units right across the country. This indicates that one of the top priorities of the RCMP has been, and will continue to be, the fight against organized crime in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

#### ORGANIZED CRIME—RESOURCES TO COMBAT

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, I know there is a lot of noise in the House, but the Solicitor General obviously did not hear my question. My question dealt with the allocation of resources in the fight against organized crime. The minister did not respond. However, in terms of the discovery of organized crime in Canada, I can assure the Solicitor General that we have known about it and that the RCMP has known about it. What we want to know is why nobody has been doing anything about it and why charges have not been laid.

My question goes back to the Minister of Justice. Under the existing wiretap law which we are seeking to amend there are almost no offences that we were shown on that television show which could not have been dealt with by wiretapping under the existing law. I want the minister to tell this House why we have not seen more charges against mafia leaders, the Five Dragons and other people when the wiretap law has been available to the RCMP all this time.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the Solicitor General, will be happy to answer specific questions with regard to the Five Dragons.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Paproski:** Why don't you try MacEachen. Allan knows everything about dragons.

**Mr. Basford:** As to the balance of the question, there is a long record—and I would be happy to answer by way of a written answer—of the charges laid and the convictions obtained by the RCMP over, for example, the last four years. They are very extensive. The hon. member for New Westminster knows very well that the activities of the co-ordinated law enforcement unit of British Columbia, of which the RCMP is a member and actively co-operates, have led over the last two years to a number of very serious drug conspiracy, heroin importation and other hard drug charges being laid. These criminal activities have been broken up and the people involved brought to court. That is as a result of effective police work. For the last three years reports from the RCMP and from others have been before this parliament, and the RCMP and others can be more effective against organized crime if some amendments to the law are passed.

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[Translation]

#### AGRICULTURE

##### REQUEST FOR MEASURES TO RESTRICT CHICKEN IMPORTS AND PROTECT PRODUCERS

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, with your permission, perhaps we could drop jailbirds and speak of poultry.

My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. As the Quebec Federation of Poultry Producers complains bitterly that Canada imports a lot of poultry from the United States at the risk of jeopardizing our own poultry industry, can the minister tell the House whether he is acquainted with the telegram allegedly sent to him by the Quebec Federation of Poultry Producers requesting his intervention through the adoption of steps to protect the poultry producers and their industry, and if so, what reply was given to that telegram?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I have had talks with my colleague the Minister of Agriculture concerning poultry markets. I believe he will be in a position to make a statement on the matter within a few days.

**Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the answer which the minister has just given and the anxiety felt by the producers, could he tell exactly to the House what was the reply to the telegram so that we may provide information to those who quite logically come to us as members and thus enlighten them and somewhat restore their confidence?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, I take the question as notice for my colleague and I will ask him to answer the hon. member.