

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As a member of that committee, the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Barnett) can certainly make a recommendation to have them referred, if he so desires.

[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE—ALLEGED INFILTRATION OF FLQ CELLS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General, last Monday, I asked the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) whether officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had infiltrated FLQ cells, I got another silent answer, as I do quite often.

I understand that that is a delicate matter. The acknowledged and necessary discretion of the police—and particularly of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police—as well as state reasons can prevent the government from giving a satisfactory answer.

However, hon. members and the rest of the population have a right to adequate information in order to avoid misunderstandings and ambiguities which leave doubts about the efficiency of police action.

Everyone knows that infiltration is one method used by the R.C.M.P. Court cases have often proved it. Recently, the press reported an incident involving a rock group whose main performer was an R.C.M.P. agent. In most cases, such a method meets with success.

This is why it would be most curious if nobody had thought of infiltrating the FLQ. The Front de Libération du Québec has been in existence since 1963. Practically everything is known about its leaders. Last year, Mr. Saulnier appeared before a Parliamentary Committee in Ottawa and submitted a thick file in this regard. The case of the Maison du Pêcheur, at Gaspé, is another proof of this.

It would therefore be quite normal for R.C.M.P. headquarters to have instructed their agents to act as pro-FLQ.

That would explain why they seemed so little worried about the kidnapping of James Cross. They knew what was going on behind the scenes and what is more, according to press reports, policeman had even rented the apartment right above the one where Mr. Cross was held prisoner.

Why put newspapers in one of the doors of the car carrying the kidnappers and Mr. Cross from des Récollets Street to the Canadian Pavilion at Man and His World? To hide Mr. Cross? Goodness, everyone had seen his picture since October.

Was it to hide Carbonneau or Lanctôt? We had seen pictures of them in all the newspapers. Only one has not been seen; his identity is unknown to everybody and even the police and the Quebec Minister of Justice cannot say anything about him. He is the famous Pierre, known as Pierre Séguin.

I am asking a direct question, Mr. Speaker: Is the man known as Pierre Séguin an agent of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police?

[Mr. Buchanan.]

If so, we should be told, otherwise certain methods of our police forces will have to be revised and the principle according to which prevention is better than cure will have to be put into practice. We understand the need for evidence before a court but between that and risking a kidnapping when it can be prevented, there is a big difference.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the unexpected and sadistic way in which the Chénier cell acted prevents the government from boasting about the police action which, through infiltration of the FLQ, would have saved this country from the so-called apprehended insurrection.

• (10:10 p.m.)

[English]

Mr. Alastair Gillespie (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, all members of the House will share the concern of the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte) for the security of the state. In answering his question may I say that in accordance with long-established practice it is not in the public interest to reveal this type of information.

POST OFFICE—CHRISTMAS MAIL DELIVERY

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, on November 26 I asked the Postmaster General to transmit to the Minister without Portfolio in charge of the Post Office my question concerning the paucity of mail deliveries during the Christmas season, a situation whereunder the people of Canada have no mail on Friday, December 25, which is Christmas; December 26, which is Boxing Day and a Saturday, and none on December 27 because it is Sunday. All of these we understand. But none on December 28, a Monday, is surely of some importance. I was astounded, therefore, to hear from the Minister without Portfolio on December 8 that the Postmaster General had not transmitted this question to the minister now in charge of the Post Office. Surely this says something about the roster system. It also says something about the communicating capacity of the Postmaster General who is also Minister of Communications.

I do not enjoy criticizing the Minister without Portfolio who has inherited an appallingly difficult task. He has in the House always displayed courtesy and consideration and has the capacity to bring such qualities to the administration of a department which has been so trouble starved in the past two years. It is therefore with the best motives that I ask him to reconsider this lacuna of delivery service. A black-out from Thursday to the following Tuesday is too much even in the post Kieransian age. Mail still has value to many Canadians, although some of the disastrous so-called reforms of the minister's predecessor drove away many customers, diminishing thereby potential revenue.

It is not surprising that there has been protest against these four mailless days. Among newspapers deploring the diminution of service were the *Globe and Mail* and