

There are no specific plans, Mr. Speaker, to prevent similar incidents from happening. It is not really possible to formulate such plans. However, if an incident of this nature were to occur again elsewhere in Canada, we would apply the same policy as we did on that occasion. After all, there is no way to foresee such odd behaviour. But before such incidents escalate we always try, when possible, to find solutions in good faith, counting on the goodwill of all parties.

● (2222)

Some people have a tendency to think that we should be ruthless and more intransigent in our dealings with our unions. Others feel that we should be lenient and give in, in order to achieve peace at any cost. Mr. Speaker, experience has taught me otherwise. Nothing is achieved by extremes. Dealing with human problems requires a lot of understanding, tolerance and patience. However, one must realize that we have to accept our responsibilities towards the Canadian people who are entitled to an efficient and reliable postal service.

We have done a lot towards this goal: conciliation with CUPW is continuing; LCUC negotiations have already started; study groups to explore the possibilities of a Crown corporation status for the Post Office is proceeding; intergroup sessions are being held; full management meetings are continually taking place. Constructive, positive action is being taken by management. Mr. Speaker, we have a fine group of workers at the Post Office. We could achieve a lot more if a certain minority would agree to have a more tolerant attitude. Flexibility, tolerance, understanding, we all agree, are a must, but this does not mean we will sell out our responsibilities which are entrusted to us by the Canadian people.

The Post Office does not belong to the government, does not belong to any particular union, does not belong to management; it belongs to the Canadian people, and I intend to keep that so.

NATIONAL SECURITY—STATUS OF FORMER RCMP OFFICER

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, here it is at 10.22 p.m. and it is nice to see the Postmaster General (Mr. Lamontagne) here in person at this late hour to answer the previous question. I wonder if it had anything to do with the fact that the previous questioner was a member of the government. But I see the hon. member for Bruce-Grey (Mr. Douglas) here to answer my question on behalf of the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais), and I have much regard for that member. I know he can read the answer as well as anybody.

On May 3, as recorded at page 5111 of *Hansard*, I asked the Solicitor General the following question:

The Solicitor General is aware that a former RCMP staff sergeant, Ed Hameluk, has left the co-ordinating law enforcement unit in Vancouver to join John Meirs, a former associate of the late Howard Hughes. Since Mr. Hameluk was in a sensitive security position analysing intelligence and information sources and is now working for Mr. Meirs, who also had contact with CLEU, I ask the Solicitor General whether this matter is being looked into.

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Also, is he aware of the concern of other police forces in Canada about this matter, and what steps are being taken by him and, to his knowledge, by the attorney general of British Columbia to evaluate the situation?

The Solicitor General answered as follows:

I will look at the information he has provided, and if his evidence is accurate I will express the concern that he has expressed.

I am looking for that kind of information tonight. The question was first raised in the B.C. legislature on April 3 or 4 and was answered by the attorney general there on April 11, as recorded in their *Hansard*. I read as follows from that record:

—a couple of days ago concerning the job function of Mr. Ed Hameluk with the Co-ordinated Law Enforcement Unit. The response is: under the general supervision of the deputy director of the co-ordinated law enforcement unit, policy analysis division, Mr. Hameluk was to examine the phenomenon of organized crime in B.C.

That was one of his principal duties. He has left the service; he tendered his letter of resignation for personal reasons. An undertaking of the confidentiality of information has been received from him.

That is the point which is at the bottom of my concern, the fact that he has expressed confidentiality of information. I take heart from that, but that does not give me enough of a sense of security for the well-being of all of Canada. As I said earlier, Mr. Hameluk has left that organization to work with Mr. John Meirs who used to be in the employ of Mr. Howard Hughes. Mr. Meirs is now reportedly interested in funding a bank in the South Pacific in the principality of Tonga. I understand that the Bank of Hawaii is very concerned about that. It is also a matter of record that the U.S. authorities have been after Mr. Meirs regarding tax evasion charges.

● (2227)

It is fairly common knowledge in British Columbia that Mr. Meirs was arrested some years ago in Bellingham. He was held on \$50,000 bail and then was released. He dropped that \$50,000 bail in the city of Bellingham. Mr. Meirs has had contact with CLEU. Mr. Ed Hameluk was a principal spokesman for CLEU in some areas. He left that organization to work for Mr. Meirs. I think that is some cause for concern. It is my suspicion, if not my understanding, that some of the other police forces in Canada are concerned also about the new union between these two men.

I should like to receive some assurance from the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais) as to what steps have been taken to ensure the security of Canada has not been risked by this new association. I do not know what can be done if Mr. Hameluk has given his word to keep confidential all the information he has received over the years. I do not know what type of security measures have been taken, but I am sure the authorities in charge of this area have means at their disposal to make sure this sensitive information, which has been at his disposal, will remain totally secure and will not be used in some manner that would be detrimental to Canada in any way in future years.

Mr. C. Douglas (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I should like to thank the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock (Mr. Friesen) for raising this matter, as he did with the minister as reported at page