

*Oral Questions*

would be interfering in a political way with a police investigation.

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

**Mr. Oberle:** Mr. Speaker, the minister has already admitted that he has received information from the RCMP involving certain cabinet ministers. Are there any other names than those that have been mentioned? Are there others such as the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Finance who are involved in the allegations?

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, I received a transcript of a tape which the RCMP received from the Toronto Metropolitan Police. This is the tape—

**An hon. Member:** Why did you receive it?

**Mr. Allmand:** The RCMP got it and they gave it to me.

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** But you are not involved in the investigation.

**Mr. Allmand:** I am not involved in the investigation. They gave me a report.

● (1510)

Mr. Speaker, this transcript of the tape was leaked by the Toronto Police to a member of the Ontario Legislature who in turn leaked it to the press. I think this is a shocking thing. I would like to remind the House that earlier this year we spent a great deal of time debating the privacy bill and there was much concern shown here about protecting individuals who were the subject of wire taps by the police. As a matter of fact, at that time opposition members wanted to strengthen the measure to protect individuals who were the subject of wire tapping. In this case, the government responded to some of the leaked information—misinformation—which was put abroad, but in principle we are against the release of transcripts of wire taps which are made by the police in their investigations—these should be released, in my opinion, only under the conditions of the privacy bill. I hope the opposition will take the same view, because that was the position they took during the debate.

**Mr. Symes:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The minister said earlier that he did not get involved in the investigation. But a moment ago he said he had received a transcript of the tape from the Toronto Metropolitan Police.

**An hon. Member:** No. He said he had received it from the RCMP.

**Mr. Symes:** From the RCMP. Did the minister ask for this tape or is it customary for the RCMP to report constantly to the minister on this investigation?

**Mr. Allmand:** No, Mr. Speaker. The House had asked me for a report. I promised to report to the House. I asked the RCMP for an interim report, and with the interim report they gave me a copy of that transcript.

[Mr. Allmand.]

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**

**PERSON GIVING GUIDANCE TO FORCE DURING  
INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CABINET  
MINISTERS INVOLVED WITH SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL  
UNION**

**Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain):** My question is also to the Solicitor General and has to do with his rather peculiar interpretation of section five of the RCMP Act. It says clearly that the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police acts under the direction of the minister. Under that direction he has control and management of the force itself. Since the matter under investigation by the RCMP in this instance is one which concerns not only the law but also the propriety of conduct of ministers, will the Solicitor General advise the House to whom the RCMP must look for guidance on this question other than the chief law enforcement officer under whose direction the RCMP must act by statute?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** I would suggest to the hon. member that he get a legal interpretation of that section because there is a long tradition in Canada that the Solicitor General, or, before him, the Minister of Justice, the minister responsible for the RCMP, does not interfere in criminal investigations. He does not direct the force to investigate when it does not feel it should investigate, nor does it try to deter the force from investigating when it feels it should investigate. They investigate freely and openly and then they lay charges when they have the evidence. They do not clear with the Solicitor General—

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

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Since, according to statements made frequently in the House in the last few days, this is not simply a criminal investigation but is also an investigation into the conduct of ministers and touches the propriety of their conduct—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Mr. Stanfield:** Of course it is.

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** —to whom does the RCMP in these unusual circumstances look for advice and direction other than to the minister?

**Mr. Allmand:** These investigations do relate to certain provisions of the criminal law. There are sections of the Criminal Code which relate to the bribery and corruption of public officials. But those matters, if they relate to federal public officials, are usually investigated by the RCMP. I must repeat that the RCMP, when undertaking investigations, does not seek my advice and direction. They were asked to investigate allegations made by Mr. Shulman and they carry out that investigation independently and freely.

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day!

**Mr. Dick:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. A matter on which *Hansard* perhaps has something incorrect. You indicated that the Solicitor General has cleared up an error. I am wondering whether *Hansard* has it incorrect.