

Oral Questions

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): At the time I returned the moneys to the SIU, I was aware generally that they were the subject matter of controversy. I made a value judgment as perhaps any hon. member of this House would. I am sure we all receive donations from corporations and perhaps from unions. I made a judgment that because there was controversy surrounding it, although I was not aware of the nature of the controversy, I thought it might be misunderstood if I kept this particular contribution and it was for this reason I returned it, not because I thought it was improper for any member of the House—

An hon. Member: But you are the Minister of Labour!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Well, any minister of labour in the country might be suspect, then, having received moneys from a union to finance a campaign. If every member of the House is to be subjected to innuendo because of campaign contributions received at election time, perhaps we should all go before the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—DATE WHEN ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE BEGAN INVESTIGATION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General. In view of the fact that the attorney general of Ontario is reported to have said that he sent to the federal Minister of Labour ten sworn affidavits regarding SIU violence, could the Solicitor General inform the House at what precise time the investigation into this situation was begun by the RCMP?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of these affidavits having been sent to the Minister of Labour. The first and only time since I have been Solicitor General that I was requested to investigate the SIU was last week, following the allegations of Mr. Shulman. Following those allegations, the Minister of Labour asked me to approach the RCMP about having a full investigation into those allegations, and they have been investigating ever since.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: If hon. members on the other side have questions I will answer them, but I guess the best they can do is laugh. As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the only time I was asked to have the RCMP investigate the SIU was last week, and they have been investigating ever since. I have received an interim report and the investigation is continuing. I have no knowledge of the ten affidavits.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—DISPOSITION OF TEN AFFIDAVITS SENT MINISTER OF LABOUR CONCERNING VIOLENCE

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Labour. If what the Solicitor General says is true—and I have no reason to doubt it—and he did begin the investi-

gation last week, would the Minister of Labour explain to the House why he has not yet sent to the Solicitor General these ten sworn testimonials which were sent to him by the attorney general of the province of Ontario concerning violence by this union?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can answer that. To my knowledge, the only reason they have not been sent is that I have not received them, and I am not aware that anybody else has received them. The RCMP investigation is carrying on and perhaps this will bring them forward. In the meantime, as the President of the Privy Council indicated, the Minister of Justice has been in touch with his counterpart in the province, and presumably through that contact we might obtain possession of these particular affidavits. They have not come at this time. I would welcome their coming, but at this time they have not come to my attention. I hope that the hon. member will accept this. I wish they would come. I should like to see them from the point of view of determining whether I should advise my colleague that some sort of further investigation other than the one already being carried on is warranted.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby on a final supplementary.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—REQUEST FOR INDUSTRIAL INQUIRY COMMISSION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, in view of the precedent set by the appointment of Justice Norris as an industrial inquiry commissioner in 1962 to investigate waterfront violence and the role of the SIU specifically, and in view of the serious evidence, of which we are all now aware, of current violence on the waterfront, will the minister appoint another industrial inquiry commission immediately?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member would agree that there was instituted, within a very short time after these allegations were made, an RCMP investigation. I believe it is important that we get the results of this RCMP investigation and then make a judgment as to whether any type of further investigation of the nature suggested by the hon. member is warranted. I am just waiting for further revelations to come from the RCMP investigation, and I will keep this House, including the hon. member, fully informed.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

ACCEPTANCE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM UNION WHICH IS UNDER JURISDICTION OF MINISTER—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister. Is it the opinion of the government that it is satisfactory practice for a member of the government to accept campaign funds from a union, the operations of which come under his jurisdiction as minister?