

ton West. In order to determine whether the minister can assist in this matter, will he advise whether he has arrived at the conclusion that in fact the person to whom the reference was made is Lincoln Alexander. If it is, then I think I have ground for requesting that the tapes or records be shared.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, I think the Solicitor General has indicated that the name of the hon. member for Hamilton West was not mentioned. I cannot give opinions on matters of this kind. I cannot comment on the contents of a tape that is restricted and in the hands of the police in the course of their investigation. I think it was a very serious offence indeed for any portion of this to be leaked. Every member of this House must regard this type of thing as very serious indeed.

Mr. Alexander: Mr. Speaker, I know the minister is fair. I know he approaches this matter with a feeling of charity toward me. I also know he has had an opportunity to look at the records. Keeping in mind that the reports indicate the racial slur was directed against me—we are discussing a federal election and there is only one black member in the House of Commons and therefore we cannot be talking about just any black person—I see the Minister of National Health and Welfare laughing.

Mr. Lalonde: I was smiling.

Mr. Alexander: It doesn't matter a damn. I don't like you laughing.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member will not prevent me from smiling in the House about another matter. What I was smiling about had nothing to do with what the hon. member was saying.

Mr. Alexander: Under these circumstances, will the Minister of Labour speak to his colleague, the Solicitor General, in order to have the tapes released so that I can look at them as well as my front bench members and leader so that we can determine what went on at that particular time. Would he do that for me?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, a question of that kind should more properly be directed to the Minister of Justice or the Solicitor General. With particular reference to that matter, I can only say that in my own personal opinion, the leak of tapes gathered during the course of a police investigation and reference to comments that might have been made is highly improper and has implications—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Hamilton East): If I may continue, Mr. Speaker. The first day after Mr. Shulman referred in the legislature to the fact that federal officials were being bribed and did not name them, I ordered an investigation. It was I who ordered an investigation.

Oral Questions

Mr. Alexander: You are missing my point. You had a chance to look at them.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have not checked this, but it is my understanding that last week when talking about the tapes which the Minister of Labour had, the Solicitor General said he would produce them to anyone who asked for them, even if we could not get them from other sources. Even if the Solicitor General did not mean that, and I think he did, will he now permit these tapes to be produced so that the hon. member for Hamilton West can see what is in them. Why should the Minister of Labour and the Solicitor General have a right to see tapes that are denied to the hon. member for Hamilton West? That is the question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. A week or so ago I said I would reveal transcripts of a CBC radio broadcast that was alluded to by one of the backbenchers on the other side of the House. I did not say I would reveal the transcript of a wiretap. As a matter of fact, if hon. members examine the privacy law which we passed earlier this year, they will see that it is illegal to reveal a transcript of a wiretap to anyone except the parties involved. The people tapped in this particular case were the SIU office and the Minister of Labour. In addition, it was the Minister of Labour who requested the investigation.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—SUGGESTED REFERENCE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS OF MEMBERS TO MINISTER OF LABOUR

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Solicitor General if during the course of the current investigation into the SIU he has been made aware of the criminal records of certain SIU employees and their relationship with the underworld? If so, does he intend to urge his colleague, the Minister of Labour, to have a closer look at the internal workings of this particular union?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker. I have not been made aware of any criminal records. I might point out that I am not conducting the investigation. The RCMP is doing that.

Mr. MacKay: I say to the Solicitor General that if he is interested, I can supply him with some of these. I will be doing so later this evening in the late show.

Mr. Allmand: Why don't you supply them to the police?

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—RESPONSIBILITY FOR DECISION AS TO WHO SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO TAPES

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Does he take the position that it is for him or other members of the government to make a judgment as to who is or is not involved in these tapes, either directly or by innuendo, so that the