

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

SKY SHOPS INVESTIGATION—ROLE OF OFFICIALS OF
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT IN GRANTING LEASE

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce with regard to the so called Sky Shops affair and related matters. Can the minister indicate briefly to the House what role members of his senior staff played in this matter, whether these roles were carried out with his knowledge and authorization, and what action he has taken to ensure that the RCMP have access to all relevant information with regard to these activities, if any?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I presume the hon. member is referring to my responsibilities during my tenure as minister of transport, because of course there is no relationship in terms of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. My answer to the latter part of his question is that I was asked by the RCMP whether I would object if they looked at the files which are on file, I think with Public Archives. I gave them full access to them. Beyond that I have no official knowledge. I have, however, been informed informally that there was an exchange of correspondence between the executive assistant of the Minister of the Environment and my executive assistant. But what disposition was made of that beyond that point, I have no personal knowledge at present.

SKY SHOPS INVESTIGATION—ROLE OF OFFICIALS OF
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT IN GRANTING LEASE

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of the Environment whether he can clarify the role his staff played with regard to the Sky Shops affair, and whether unauthorized acts and signatures were arranged without his knowledge? Can he say anything to parliament at this time?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Within whatever limitations might be placed on that question in the question period I do not know whether any minister could ever describe, in the terms asked, the role played by him or his staff in terms of an affair. It seems to me rather expansive. I think the hon. member will have to be more specific.

SKY SHOPS INVESTIGATION—KNOWLEDGE OF PRIME
MINISTER OF THE ROLE OF OFFICIALS IN GRANTING LEASE

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can ask a question of the Prime Minister. Can the right hon. gentleman indicate that he has been fully briefed on the role of the offices of these two former ministers of DREE and Transport in this matter, and can he assure this House unequivocally that there have been no improprieties in executive or administrative functions relating to the Sky Shops matters arising out of the actions of these two ministers?

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not asked to be fully briefed. I understand that the mounted police are conducting an investigation and that they have submitted a report to the attorney general of the province of Quebec. That is the extent of my knowledge.

Mr. MacKay: If I understand the right hon. gentleman correctly, he is telling the House that he has not been fully briefed and has no knowledge of any of the affairs which have been obliquely referred to by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and he knows nothing of any improprieties in administrative functions which have taken place in those two offices, the office of the former minister of DREE and the former minister of transport.

Mr. Trudeau: No, that is a misunderstanding. What I am saying is that I have no knowledge of the file which has been given by the mounted police to the Quebec attorney general as a basis for any legal action. I do not know what material was given and whether there were or were not recommendations. Of course, I have talked about this matter to the Minister of the Environment and other ministers.

SKY SHOPS INVESTIGATION—INQUIRY AS TO DECISION ON
FILE TURNED OVER TO QUEBEC

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I hope the Prime Minister will apprise himself of the circumstances relating to this matter. This is indeed a very serious situation.

I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. Will the minister advise the House whether he has been in touch with the attorney general for the province of Quebec or the chief prosecutor there to ascertain what progress is being made or what decision has been made with respect to the file turned over to the province's justice department involving Sky Shops and other investigations?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, no, I have not, because the RCMP is properly reporting to the provincial authorities in this matter. As far as I am aware there are no so-called federal offences involved, and therefore the RCMP would not report to me on the matter.

SKY SHOPS INVESTIGATION—SUGGESTION SOLICITOR
GENERAL ENSURE NO DELAY IN ACTING ON FILE TURNED
OVER TO QUEBEC

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question to the Solicitor General. Since the Solicitor General has indicated that the file with respect to the Sky Shops investigation has been completed, and since, apparently, it has been in the possession of the department of justice for the province of Quebec for some time, will the minister assure the House that he will monitor the situation so that there will be no appearance of political expediency in any delays which may take place in dealing with this matter?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I cannot admit that this file has been in the hands of the provincial government for some time. It is my understand-