

by the RCMP of the apartment of Mr. Paul Desbiens, in which Mrs. Desbiens was technically assaulted in her bath. A senior RCMP official in the Ottawa area publicly stated that the Solicitor General would reply in the House. Therefore I ask the minister whether the investigation has been completed, and what action has been taken to redress this regrettable intrusion?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I had an answer here for several weeks waiting for the hon. member to follow up the matter with me, but I do not have it with me this morning.

Some hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: But let me say this. There were two Mr. Desbiens, father and son, who lived in the same building. When the police came to press a charge against the son for possession of narcotics, they were directed to the father's apartment. They went to the apartment with a warrant and went into the bathroom, but as soon as they saw the lady there they left. The police left immediately, Mr. Speaker. There was no assault.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: They apologized and then went to the neighbouring apartment and served a summons on the right Mr. Desbiens.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I hope the Solicitor General is not representative of the RCMP or of justice in this country. It is very easy to make fun of the situation, but the facts are that no warrant was presented. The police did not leave, they searched the apartment—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member is now engaging in debate and he has been recognized for the purpose of asking a supplementary. Perhaps he should ask his supplementary. I seek the co-operation of hon. members; we do not appear to be moving very quickly this morning. I hope we will have as few supplementaries as possible so that more questioners can be given an opportunity to ask a question this morning.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I personally visited that apartment shortly afterwards.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: Explain.

Mr. Peters: What the minister states is not correct. That apartment was searched. All the possessions in that place were searched. There was no warrant. I am suggesting that I have this knowledge personally. Therefore I would ask the minister to reconsider this matter and have a full investigation made in a serious manner. This is a citizen of Canada whose rights were transgressed. I believe an investigation will indicate that some action should be taken against the officers who made this intrusion without a warrant.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I have checked this matter thoroughly. There was a warrant. The warrant was issued by a magistrate in Ottawa. When the police went to the apartment building, which is to be torn down very shortly for an urban renewal project, there were no names on the doors or below in the apartment lobby. They went upstairs and asked a lady they saw, who was Mrs. Desbiens herself, the wife of the son, where the apartment was. She directed them to the apartment that they entered. They entered that apartment and started searching around. There was no one there. They opened a door, found the elderly Mrs. Desbiens in the bathroom, apologized and left, and then were redirected to the right apartment.

Mr. Peters: That is a lie and you know it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Allmand: They went and put the warrant before the right man and the matter is now before the courts.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member who wants to rise on a question of privilege. The minister has given a statement. The hon. member for Timiskaming on a question of privilege has also given a statement which brings out facts that are different than those reported by the minister. The minister has repeated his facts. Obviously there is a necessity for the matter to be looked into, but I really do not think that it can be settled by an exchange of questions of privilege during the question period. If the hon. member for Timiskaming seeks the floor on a question of privilege I will, of course, recognize him. But I would hope that some way can be found for the matter to be cleared up without taking up all the time in the question period on questions of privilege.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, the facts the minister states are not correct. I personally was there. If the minister wants me to indicate that he is dishonest, I can be pushed into that, Mr. Speaker. I state that the names were on a number of mail boxes in the vestibule and that the numbers are clearly in very large letters on the doors of the apartments. I state this from my own knowledge, Mr. Speaker, and I ask that the minister treat this matter seriously, re-investigate and ascertain the facts.

● (1200)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I do not think I should recognize the minister. We have heard the same report twice from the minister and the hon. member's report. I do not think we should hear it a third time, either from the member or from the minister. The minister rises on a point of order.

Mr. Allmand: Merely on the point that the member accused me of lying. He said that I was a liar. It was pretty clear on my earphone. I think he should withdraw that. I made this statement based on the report given to me. Like him. I have not investigated the matter myself. It is a pretty large country and we have many policemen. I refuse to accept his allegation that I am telling lies in the House.