

Oral Questions

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, I do not carry all CMHC's documents around with me. The hon. member may carry one but I would have to carry a great deal more in order to answer questions that are put to me. I would be pleased to discuss it with the hon. member, but I would be much more interested in discussing it with the housing minister for Ontario.

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[Translation]

TRANSPORT

INQUIRY AS TO CONTRACT TO BOMBARDIER FOR PROTOTYPE RAPID TRANSIT TRAIN—NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

The press just announced that the federal government has awarded the Bombardier corporation a \$250 million contract to develop a prototype rapid transit train connecting suburbs and downtown areas. Could the Minister of Transport elaborate and tell the House what is happening to the large urban areas transit systems improvement project and could he confirm or invalidate that news about the award of a contract to Bombardier-Matra?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, let me answer a part of the question only. Otherwise, I would have to make an hour long speech on the development of the transport industry in Canada. I know that the news about Bombardier having been awarded a contract by my department is true.

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Bombardier-Matra having been given an important contract of \$250 million, could the minister tell how many new jobs will be created?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): How many jobs? Well, I do not know; but I will seek information and I will be told. But at first sight, I cannot say.

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[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

AUTHORITY TO SEARCH HAMILTON OFFICE OF MINISTER OF LABOUR—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Solicitor General a question. As reported at page 3535 of *Hansard* the Minister of Labour said in answer to a question of mine:

Mr. Speaker, they wanted permission to look at documents in my office, the contents of which I was really not aware. They were in cabinets. I gave them permission to go ahead, even though they did not have proper authority.

Has the minister looked into the fact that the RCMP had no authority to seize documents in the office of the Minister of Labour, and why did they act without authority?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I did look into that. What the minister meant by that was that the search warrant the RCMP had on that occasion was for a different address. When the Minister of Labour saw that it was a different address, he felt he would not object to their taking the documents no matter where they were, and he gave them to them in any case.

NATURE OF DOCUMENT AUTHORIZING SEARCH OF HAMILTON OFFICE OF MINISTER OF LABOUR—REQUEST FOR TABLING

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister is trying to clear up this matter, but in light of the fact that there appears to be some discrepancy between the Minister of Labour and the Solicitor General, and since this matter is important, has the Solicitor General asked for a copy of the documents that the RCMP did in fact have with them when they entered and made a raid on the Minister of Labour's office; and if he has perused them, what kind of documents were they?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the RCMP had a search warrant to obtain certain documents from the Minister of Labour. When the Minister of Labour said that they did not have authority, he meant that they did not have authority to search at that particular address. It was not that the RCMP did not have general authority to search. Consequently, the Minister of Labour turned over all the documents at that address and at other places to the RCMP.

Mr. Woolliams: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister tell the House what the documents were? What did they contain, and would he be prepared to table a copy of them in the House so that the matter will then be finalized and cleared up?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, do I understand the hon. member to be asking for the documents seized or taken by the RCMP?

Mr. Woolliams: Just to clarify that, Mr. Speaker, I am asking for the documents that led to the raid and gave the RCMP authority to make the raid on the Minister of Labour's office. What were those documents, and what did they contain?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, there is a criminal investigation underway. Charges have been laid in five instances in this case already. Three men have been found guilty and the investigation is still being conducted. I do not think there are grounds to table in this House documents relating to a criminal investigation.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, before we leave this issue, if we should leave it, in the course of giving an answer to my hon. friend from Central Nova the Minister of Transport read from a number of documents which he indicated a willingness to table. I have been waiting for him to do so, and I am wondering whether on a point of order I can ask the minister whether that is his intention.