

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has pointed out, this was one of the recommendations made by the royal commission in 1969. At that point that recommendation was looked at and examined in detail by the government and by the RCMP. For a variety of reasons, it was decided that it was best to leave the security services within the RCMP. I have looked at the question a number of times, and I think there are very good reasons for keeping the security services within the RCMP. There are some good reasons that can be marshalled on the other side of the argument to indicate that it ought to be a civilian agency outside of the RCMP. This is a problem we will have to examine in great depth and detail. I trust this is one of the main tasks that the new Royal Commission on Security, which was set up in July of this year, will want to examine in detail.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****SUGGESTED ELIMINATION OF CIVILIAN SECURITY GROUP AND RETURNING AUTHORITY TO FORCE**

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. In view of the fact that all of the erosion of the integrity—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

● (1502)

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the erosion of the integrity and of the good image of the RCMP is related to instances involving security and intelligence activity and have arisen since the initial establishment of the security planning and research group under the present Minister of Supply and Services, will the government consider restoring the confidence of the public in the RCMP by dismantling the civilian security planning and analysis branch of his department and re-establishing the security and intelligence operations and responsibilities under the sole control and direction of the RCMP where they were prior to the establishment of Goyer's gumshoes which have now become Fox's flatfeet?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** The group to which the hon. member refers is a group—as he knows because he questioned them at great length during the examination of the estimates of my department last spring—which performs a very worthwhile function within our country, and the people who are working in that group are dedicated public servants, as he well knows.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****NO JUSTIFICATION FOR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY POLICE FORCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Prime Minister and of the Minister of Justice, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Would the minister advise the House whether he, with his special responsibilities for the administration of justice, agrees with the Prime Minister when the Prime Minister stated that there may be technical breaches of the law which are justified in the name of national security, or does the minister agree with me that the administration of the law in a liberal democratic state has to be equitable, fair and the same for all persons, so that there is no justification for break-in and entry, for theft or arson, no matter what the rationalization or who perpetrates the breach?

[Translation]

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, this is a question to which I have replied at least on three or four occasions this afternoon.

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[English]

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES—REASON FOR FAILURE OF CABINET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY TO LEARN OF ACTIVITIES**

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Prime Minister cannot be here, but perhaps the Solicitor General, even though he is new to the cabinet committee on security and intelligence, could tell us why the cabinet committee on security and intelligence, which is chaired by the Prime Minister and is the top level group in the security field and includes the Minister of Justice, the Solicitor General and the Secretary of State for External Affairs, did not know about the illegal break-in, arson and thefts until a few days ago, and why this information was kept from this cabinet committee and how did this come about?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** The information to which the hon. member refers concerning the case was the result of an operation which everyone within the security service at that time, including the director general of the security service, did not consider to be an illegal operation. That is why from their point of view, there was no reason to report it to the government at the time.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**CABINET INSTRUCTION ON SURVEILLANCE OF VARIOUS SECTORS OF COMMUNITY**

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** In light of this further revelation, I wonder whether the Solicitor General can tell us, either during the question period or as a statement on motions, what instructions were issued by the cabinet committee on