

*Oral Questions*

within the jurisdiction of the provinces and that therefore matters of violence, which are dealt with under sections 244, 245 and 246 of the Criminal Code should be dealt with by provincial attorneys general; on the other hand, it is suggested that offences falling under sections 108, 109 and 110 of the Criminal Code, to do with fraud, bribery of officials, breaches of trust by public officials and influencing or negotiating appointments, meaning influence peddling and bribery—and he used the word bribery—should be investigated through his department. Why are both categories of offence not dealt with by the same agency, either by the province or by his department.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I want to make sure I have heard from all hon. members who wish to contribute. The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

**Mr. Broadbent:** Mr. Speaker, may I raise what will be, I hope, a final point of order. It has to do with the contact which has or has not taken place between the federal government and the government of Ontario. The Minister of Justice just told the House that he received no requests from the government of Ontario for an investigation of this matter. Is he saying that that request did not come from the government of Ontario? Did he not receive that request from the Minister of Labour? I was informed that on November 19 the Minister of Labour obtained a specific request from the attorney general of the province of Ontario to have this matter investigated. Did the Minister of Labour not request the Minister of Justice to look into this?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, he did not. The investigation which followed that contact was in relation, I think, to matters which were followed up through the police. I should say in reply to the further question asked that prosecutions involving employees within the federal field, and criminal cases closely touching the federal government, fall within the jurisdiction of provincial attorneys general. That is our policy. Because such cases closely touch the government itself, we naturally take steps on our own initiative to investigate complaints. If they come to anything, or if it appears that anything is substantially wrong, the case goes into the hands of the provincial authority in ordinary circumstances.

As well, in cases not involving federal governmental people but involving people coming under the broad jurisdiction of parliament, the Criminal Code clearly calls for investigation and pursuit, under existing conditions, to fall within the ambit of provincial attorneys general. Provincial attorneys general have been extremely jealous about any interference or alteration of that course. At the same time, perhaps this House might consider whether some further matters ought to be administered by the attorney general, federal, rather than by the attorney general, provincial. As matters now stand, when a matter involves violence or an offence which would lead to a criminal charge against a non-governmental person, that matter falls squarely within the jurisdiction of the provincial attorney general.

**Mr. Baldwin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. Does the Minister of Justice not agree that widespread and general allegations of beatings, violence and

[Mr. Dick.]

intimidation concerning a national union, have national ramifications which affect a national industry and that this should justify federal intervention in the form of an inquiry?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before the minister answers that question, as by his rising he shows he intends to do, I think the Chair should make it clear that, as an hon. member raised by way of point of order a question which he felt ought to have been put, but which was not—and that was not a point of order—so in this case, the House is considering a point of order which began when the minister made to the House an answer to a question which he had hoped, I suppose, would be asked during the question period but which was not asked; that, too, was not a point of order. We have now clearly arrived at the point at which we ought to have arrived in the first place. We should simply continue the question period and hear questions of members and answers from ministers. I do not know why the guise of a point of order was ever used in either instance. I have some difficulty in understanding that. I again ask hon. members to apply themselves to questions during the question period. The hon. member for Peace River asked the minister a question, which the minister was about to answer.

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I think if the matter falls within provincial jurisdiction, then, naturally, we would draw it to the attention of provincial authorities. What the hon. member has referred to, however, as widespread allegations—and the point in question concerns what are allegations, have come to our attention through the press. The person who apparently has some information in his possession is drawing it out day by day before the Ontario legislature and not even placing it fully before the provincial authorities. As far as we are concerned, we read about it in the press as he day by day reveals more of his supposed rabbit which turns out not to be a rabbit at all.

● (1510)

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION—PERSON WHO DIRECTED SOLICITOR GENERAL TO SHOW INTERIM REPORT TO MINISTER OF LABOUR

**Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the Solicitor General who earlier in the question period indicated he had been directed to take this extraordinary step to make the interim report of the RCMP available to his colleague, a minister who was involved in that report. Can the Solicitor General advise who gave him that direction? Was it the Minister of Labour and will the Minister of Labour be part of the group which assesses the RCMP reports and makes the decision as to whether there should be a public investigation into activities which include activities of the Minister of Labour?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think I said I was directed.

**Some hon. Members:** Yes.

**Mr. Allmand:** I said I made it available. I made it available to the Prime Minister. If I recall correctly, I initiated the move to see the Prime Minister and Minister