

### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

#### ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES WITHIN PRAIRIE FARM ADMINISTRATION—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION BY RCMP

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, the applause is the result of the fact I tried to get a supplementary to a question on Monday.

**An hon. Member:** And every day since.

**Mr. Towers:** Yes, and every day since. My question is directed to the Solicitor General. On Monday the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain raised an issue concerning irregularities within PFA. Has the Solicitor General instructed the RCMP to investigate those allegations?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** No, Mr. Speaker, I have not. Nobody asked that I do so. If the member wants me to turn over that request to the RCMP I shall do it.

**Mr. Towers:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. While the minister has suggested he would comply with the request I should like to place a supplementary on record. Would the Solicitor General take steps immediately to direct the RCMP to review available documentation and information concerning irregularities within PFA, instruct them to lay charges if warranted, and to submit their findings to the Auditor General of Canada who is a servant and officer of Parliament and thus prevent the difficulty of one minister of the Crown investigating and reporting on another federal department?

**Mr. Allmand:** Mr. Speaker, I want to make clear that I will not direct or instruct the RCMP to investigate this but will ask them to consider the representation made by the hon. member.

\* \* \*

### INDUSTRY

#### LUMBER—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING AID

**Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, on November 19 the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce stated in the House that officials of several departments were meeting with him to discuss the question of the depressed lumber industry in Canada. The minister is not here today but I am sure the Prime Minister will be aware of the outcome of the discussion and will be able to give us an indication of what his government is prepared to do to assist the industry in question since the situation is deteriorating rapidly.

● (1500)

[Translation]

**Mr. Gaston Clermont (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I take the question as notice and I shall be happy to bring it to his attention.

### Oral Questions

[English]

### AGRICULTURE

#### ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN PRAIRIE FARM ADMINISTRATION—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON MINISTER'S INVESTIGATION

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Red Deer to the Minister of Agriculture. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain put a question on Monday to the Minister of Agriculture concerning irregularities in PFA, and the minister replied that he did not know what the situation was but he would check it and ascertain the facts. Has the minister done that checking? Has he ascertained the facts, and when will he be referring the situation to the Solicitor General to investigate what appears to be a pretty gross misappropriation of public funds for political purposes?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, the inquiry is not completed, so far as I am concerned, but I was in the province of Alberta the day before yesterday and the preliminary reports contain enough information in my view to show that what took place was grossly overstated. I am sure that the RCMP or anyone else who is investigating this will find the same thing. The facts we have in the department will be turned over. The person referred to was a casual employee working on the inspection of PFA. He was getting \$20 or \$24 a day for his work. The case involves one person, as I was informed so far, but the inquiry is far from complete.

**Mr. Nielsen:** When the minister's inquiry is complete, will he turn over the facts to the Solicitor General with a request that the RCMP investigate them?

**Mr. Whelan:** Of course, Mr. Speaker. We have nothing to hide whatsoever.

\* \* \*

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

#### SUGGESTED INCREASE IN MANPOWER TO COPE WITH INCREASED USE OF MARIJUANA

**Mr. John Wise (Elgin):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Solicitor General. It stems from comments or statements made by Inspector L. S. Smith of the RCMP in a recent interview in Toronto in part to the effect that more marijuana is being grown, more marijuana is being imported and more marijuana is being used than ever before and that that particular force has not enough men to cope with the situation. I want to ask the minister what plans he or his department has at present to increase the manpower of this distinguished Canadian law enforcement group to cope adequately with this serious situation.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, last year we provided for an increase in manpower in the drug enforcement section of the RCMP. We have also requested an increase for the next fiscal year. So we have been following the request of the RCMP to increase the