

finished, if he has requested a report from his officials and if a decision has been made following that report?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Bellechasse should know that my predecessor made a statement concerning the construction of a penitentiary in the Donnacona area. This decision has been made and work has already begun.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

I remember quite well the statement made by the predecessor of the present Solicitor General but since it was suggested that such a penitentiary might be built close to Montmagny, the mayor of the city of Montmagny asked me to put this question so that the municipal council would know where the matter stands.

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I take note of these further details provided by the hon. member and I will give him a complete report on that matter.

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[English]

NATIONAL SECURITY

RCMP BREAK-INS

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. It relates to a Canadian Press story printed today in which the Solicitor General is alleged to have said:

I'm not advancing that my thought processes are absolutely devoid of obscurity—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jarvis: I think he would get unanimous consent for that representation. That item relates to a story which, if accurate, means this House was clearly, not deliberately but clearly misled a week ago yesterday, April 25, when in reply to a question from the hon. member for Nickel Belt relating to the 400 surreptitious entries, the minister said, as reported in *Hansard* of that date:

A legal opinion has been forthcoming from the Department of Justice to the effect that these procedures are legal. There is a decided opinion with reference to their legality.

It indicates in this story today that such is not the case and no such legal opinion was obtained in relation to these activities. Would the Solicitor General take this opportunity to correct any misinformation he may have given the House a week ago yesterday?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the hon. gentleman from Nickel Belt, it was a question that referred generally to surreptitious entry. The question was a general one, and I replied in general terms indicating that there was a legal opinion. I indicated, as well,

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that in view of the differing opinions relating to the legality of surreptitious entries generally, I wished the matter to be dealt with by the McDonald inquiry so it would address itself to the evidence in total put before the inquiry and make a report. Mr. Speaker, that is the position I have taken in the past and it is the position I will continue to take.

Mr. Jarvis: Would the Solicitor General take the opportunity to indicate to the House the legal opinion he has from the Department of Justice? Does it relate solely to entries for the purpose of installing electronic surveillance devices? Is there any legal opinion with respect to surreptitious entry? If so, would the Solicitor General do the House the courtesy of tabling those legal opinions?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I made it clear outside the House, after that reply was made, that the legal opinion to which I referred had been tabled before the McDonald inquiry. That opinion is available to the hon. gentleman if he wishes to obtain it. It deals with surreptitious entry to install electronic devices.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Speaker, would the Solicitor General answer the first part of my last question? Does he have a legal opinion from the Department of Justice, or has one been asked for, with regard to surreptitious entry which does not relate to the installation of electronic surveillance devices?

● (1432)

[Translation]

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I do not hold the opinion described by the hon. member and I have never indicated that I had such an opinion.

[English]

ROLE OF RCMP IN PROVINCIAL JURISDICTIONS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General about a study of his department's law enforcement task force, entitled "The Role of the Federal Government in Law Enforcement", which states it has two main goals, one of which is to examine the role of the federal government in law enforcement with particular reference to the RCMP.

One of the general points considered in this study is the taking over of the OPP and the QPF by the RCMP. I ask the minister, what ongoing consultations have been developed between the federal government and the affected provinces regarding questions of jurisdiction in this very important matter and the role of provincial police forces vis-à-vis the RCMP which are of particular relevance under the present circumstances?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, it becomes evident that if there is a study relating to the role of federal enforcement, or the RCMP in the role of enforcement of federal laws, the question of federal-provincial relations will be dealt with. I would ask the hon. member to review the