

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, unfortunately I was only given notice of the hon. member's adjournment debate question at 6 p.m., and consequently I am not able to give him as complete an answer as I would like.

In any case I must tell him that this matter was first brought to my attention near the end of 1973. I was approached by the attorney for Securex as well as the attorneys for Messrs. McCleery and Brunet. Although I did not know and have never met Messrs. McCleery and Brunet, it appeared to me that they were seriously pursuing their grievance and that they wanted to clear their name. As a result, I immediately looked into the case and determined to see if anything could be done for the two officers who had been dismissed from the RCMP under section 173 of the RCMP regulations. I was told that these cases had been fully investigated and that nothing could be done.

When a new commissioner was appointed on January 1, 1974, I approached him to have these cases reviewed. He later replied to me that he was fully aware of these cases and that he saw no grounds for reversing the decision of the former commissioner, and in any case there was no legal basis to do so.

Later, in order to pursue all avenues, I sought an independent legal opinion to determine whether the dismissal of the two officers was fully legal and in accordance with all the statutes and regulations of the force. I received an opinion that the dismissals were legal, and I wrote to their attorneys to give them this information.

In the fall of 1974, Messrs. McCleery and Brunet brought their case before the Federal Court and I re-examined it

Adjournment Debate

completely once more. Later the members decided to withdraw their cases and no decision was made by the court.

I should point out that the RCMP have maintained time and again that Messrs. McCleery and Brunet were properly dismissed and that they were ready to go to court to defend their behaviour, that is, the behaviour of the administration.

During the last two weeks I was approached once more by one of the principals in Securex and his attorney, and asked to look into this case again. They alleged that they were losing certain contracts because of allegations made against them. I promised them that I would look into this case once more, and I am doing so at the present time.

I will also look into the point raised by the hon. member that the two members have not received their dismissal papers. The commissioner of the RCMP tells me furthermore that the RCMP has never made a recommendation against Securex.

The hon. member asked me if any other cases of this nature had ever come to my attention since I was appointed Solicitor General, and I must say yes, there have been cases of this nature, and it was for this reason that I established the Marin Commission to investigate the whole matter of discipline and related procedures within the RCMP. I must point out that the Marin Commission was not appointed to review individual cases but to review the entire disciplinary procedures, and we will expect a report in the fall.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 o'clock a.m.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.29 p.m.