

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Benjamin: Mr. Speaker, it is a related question, not a supplementary, but is directed to the same minister.

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed to ask the question even though it is not a supplementary and then we will go on to the hon. member for Vegreville.

REPRESENTATIONS ON SHARING OF STORAGE COSTS ON ALL GRAINS BY GOVERNMENT—DISCUSSION WITH FARM ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice who is in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the representations by a number of farm organizations for several years calling for the revision of the Temporary Wheat Reserves Act so that a share of the storage cost of all six grains can be borne by the federal government, can the minister advise if he and his officials have been holding discussions with these farm organizations with the objective of implementing such a revision? If not, is it his intention to hold such discussions with a view to revising the act in the manner which the farm organizations are seeking?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first part of the question is no. I have no intention of discussing the matter with them at the present time.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

PROTESTS AGAINST REMOVAL OF INITIALS FROM BUILDING AND VEHICLES IN EDMONTON

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General arising out of statements made last Friday. Has the minister received any formal protest, internal, external or otherwise, concerning the removal of the initials "RCMP" from the building and vehicles of the Edmonton RCMP detachment? If so would he so indicate, and will he be making a statement on motions to clarify this issue as it has alarmed many people, particularly in western Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, this is an administrative decision that was taken by the Commissioner himself on November 4, 1969, as to the principle, and on October 19, 1970, as to the details. In fact, this decision of the Commissioner is widely known, since the new sign has appeared on RCMP buildings for two years already, and more particularly in Saskatoon since June 1971. So, I cannot see why there is such an alarm all of a sudden.

[English]

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary of the Solicitor General. What specific directions came from the Solicitor General with respect to this matter?

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: None, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker. In light of the changes that are being made with regard to new automobiles and the new RCMP building in Edmonton, although similar changes are not being made in Calgary, will the Solicitor General tell me whether there have been any representations by members of the force, and is he aware of petitions with over 11,000 names from the city of Edmonton insisting on the continuation of the original designation and refusing to accept the new system of designation?

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, the commissioner informed me his decision was made on the basis of efficiency, that the sign is a more visual one, that the recommendation was made on that account and following consultation within the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Now, I can make the whole series of signs used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police available to hon. members, and I wish to emphasize that the words Royal Canadian Mounted Police appear twice and the words Gendarmerie royale du Canada once and I believe three times is sufficient.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the right hon. member for Prince Albert and then try to go on to the next subject because we are running short of time.

• (1240)

REMOVAL OF NAME FROM BUILDING IN SASKATOON

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): I would like to ask the minister, because his memory was not very good the other day, whether or not on the building in Saskatoon the words "Royal Canadian Mounted Police" no longer appear?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the word "police" is very clearly written and everybody can see the RCMP shield which has shown, since 1873, the motto "Maintiens le droit" as well as the words Royal Canadian Mounted Police. All that is very clear. The answer is yes.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, this verbose minister does not answer the question. I asked him simply whether the designation "RCMP" has or has not been removed. I have his letter here, in case he has forgotten it, indicating that the reason RCMP was removed was that it would not blend with contemporary buildings. What an explanation!

Mr. Hees: Answer yes or no.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As I indicated a moment ago we have gone beyond the question period. I was hoping we would take two or three minutes to allow other hon. members to ask questions who throughout the whole