

Royal Canadian Mounted Police

table the document previously. Then he made a statement and offered to table the document, and that sequence would have required consent, which was not forthcoming. Then the suggestion is that the Chair is in a position to order the minister to read the statement. I do not know if I have that authority, but in any case I shall take it under advisement.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the terms of reference have been handed out to the press gallery in the press kit accompanying the statement of the minister, and were not given to members of this House or the subscribers of *Hansard*, my question to the minister now is: will he please read the terms of reference?

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, if it will be helpful to the House, I must say once again I am astonished by these charges. Since the beginning of this afternoon I have been trying to table the document.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Fox: If the hon. member had allowed me to table it, he would have had a copy by now. In any event, I would be delighted to read the terms of reference. Following my reading of the document, I should request permission to table it. It seems to me that is the only way it will become part of the record for official viewing. My reading of the terms of reference quickly is not going to be particularly helpful to hon. members. But with Your Honour's permission, I would be prepared to read the terms of reference.

● (1610)

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Fox: In answer to the question, I shall read the terms of reference. They read as follows:

WHEREAS it has been established that certain persons who were members of the RCMP at the time did, on or about October 7, 1972, take part jointly with persons who were then members of la Sûreté du Québec and la Police de Montréal in the entry of premises located at 3459 St. Hubert Street, Montreal, in the search of those premises for property contained therein, and in the removal of documents from those premises, without lawful authority to do so;

WHEREAS allegations have recently been made that certain persons who were members of the RCMP at the time may have been involved on other occasions in investigative actions or other activities that were not authorized or provided for by law;

[*Translation*]

An hon. Member: The interpretation system does not work.

Mr. Fox: Since the interpretation system does not work, I shall give the rest of the answer to the hon. member opposite in French.

WHEREAS, after having made inquiries into these allegations at the instance of the government, the Commissioner of the RCMP now advises that there are indications that certain persons who were members of the RCMP may indeed have been involved in investigative actions or other activities that were not authorized or provided for by law, and that as a consequence, the Commissioner believes that in the circumstances it would be in the best interests of the RCMP that a Commission of Inquiry be set up to look into the operations and policies of the Security Service on a national basis;

[*Mr. Speaker.*]

WHEREAS public support of the RCMP in the discharge of its responsibility to protect the security of Canada is dependent on trust in the policies and procedures governing its activities;

[*English*]

AND WHEREAS the maintenance of that trust requires that full inquiry be made into the extent and prevalence of investigative practices or other activities involving members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police that are not authorized or provided for by law.

THEREFORE, the Committee of the Privy Council, on the recommendation of the Prime Minister, advise that, pursuant to the Inquiries Act, a Commission do issue under the Great Seal of Canada, appointing

Mr. Justice David C. McDonald of Edmonton, Alberta

Mr. Donald S. Rickard of Toronto, Ontario

Mr. Guy Gilbert of Montreal, Quebec to be Commissioners under Part I of the Inquiries Act:

[*Translation*]

(a) to conduct such investigations as in the opinion of the Commissioners are necessary to determine the extent and prevalence of investigative practices or other activities involving members of the RCMP that are not authorized or provided for by law and, in this regard, to inquire into the relevant policies and procedures that govern the activities of the RCMP in the discharge of its responsibility to protect the security of Canada;

[*English*]

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The minister is reading too fast and the interpreters cannot keep up with him.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, it is a difficult situation. The minister is reading very quickly, and of course that poses a great burden on the interpreters. Perhaps the minister could read a little more slowly.

Mr. Fox: The text goes on to read:

(b) to report the facts relating to any investigative action or other activity involving persons who were members of the RCMP that was not authorized or provided for by law as may be established before the Commission, and to advise as to any further action that the Commissioners may deem necessary and desirable in the public interest; and

(c) to advise and make such report as the Commissioners deem necessary and desirable in the interest of Canada, regarding the policies and procedures governing the activities of the RCMP in the discharge of its responsibility to protect the security of Canada, the means to implement such policies and procedures, as well as the adequacy of the laws of Canada as they apply to such policies and procedures, having regard to the needs of the security of Canada.

The Committee further advise that the Commissioners:

1. be authorized to adopt such procedures and methods as the Commissioners may from time to time deem expedient for the proper conduct of the inquiry;
2. be directed that the proceedings of the inquiry be held in camera—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Fox: It goes on to read:

—in all matters relating to national security and in all other matters where the Commissioners deem it desirable in the public interest or in the interest of the privacy of individuals involved in specific cases which may be examined:

3. be directed, in making their report, to consider and take all steps necessary to preserve

(a) the secrecy of sources of security information within Canada; and

(b) the security of information provided to Canada in confidence by other nations;