

Oral Questions

programs for the Cruise missile. Is the Minister saying that this incorrect?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, I said that the object of the testing is to try to find out how we can best detect a low flying object. It could be a missile. It could be any kind of low flying object. It could be an aircraft. It could be something coming from the United States or from Russia or from anywhere else. So, it is just a question of clarifying and improving our means of detecting whatever could come over Canada at a low altitude. It is as simple as that.

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THE ADMINISTRATION**TRIP TO DENVER UNDERTAKEN BY FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE**

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Prime Minister concerning the travel activity of this Minister of State for International Trade. I am sure, in the light of the controversy which has arisen, that he has taken a look at the guidelines and the records involving that travel. Did the Prime Minister authorize his Minister of State for International Trade, who was then Secretary of State, to travel to Denver, Colorado, on March 4, 1982? I remind him that that was when the House of Commons was awaiting the decision with respect to the bell ringing incident. All Hon. Members, of course, were in Ottawa waiting to vote on a controversial Bill.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I cannot recall having authorized that particular trip at that particular time. However, there is a rule that, when Ministers want to leave the country, they do inform my office. If I see any objection to it, I make it known to them. They are also asked to check with the Department of External Affairs. That is the rule. As to March 4, I see no particular relevancy to the tail end of the question relating to the bell ringing incident. I am not quite sure what the Hon. Member is worried about in that regard.

PURPOSE OF TRIP

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, perhaps I should tell the Prime Minister, in the presence of his Minister of State for International Trade, that—

Mr. Lalonde: You could ask him a question.

Mr. Regan: You don't have the guts to ask me.

Mr. Crosby:—a Halifax newspaper has suggested that the Minister travelled to Denver, Colorado, to attend the World Cup skiing match on March 4, 1982, to see Mr. Podborski win the World Cup. I would like to confirm whether the Prime Minister had given him permission to do that when there was such controversy in Parliament. Was the Minister's presence

not so required that he could be in Denver, Colorado, on a flighty activity of that nature?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, as to the Minister himself, we remember that he was Minister responsible for sports at that time. I am sure he went in relation to preparation of sports events, notably the Olympics to be held in Alberta. However, as to the relevance of the bell ringing incident, I suppose the Minister made a judgment that most Canadians made, that it was a mindless ringing of bells by an opposition Party which did not know how to make up its mind on anything and was just trying to tear down Parliament. He thought he would be more useful to the country there than in assisting in the destruction of Parliament by the Conservative Party.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE**APPLICATION OF RULE OF LAW**

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton-Strathcona): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General, but I see that he is not here. I will direct my question to the Attorney General in his absence.

Mr. Lalonde: He'll be back. Here he is.

Mr. Kilgour: Maybe they can decide which one of them wants to answer it.

Mr. Cousineau: You decide.

Mr. Kilgour: The Minister will know that most people have criticized his security package on the basis that it allows people to break the law. No one is above the law in our system. Will the Minister tell us what he means by the "rule of law", whether he agrees that it authorizes people to break the law and, if so, what he intends to do about those aspects of the Bill?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, it certainly does not allow people to break the law. It does not increase the authority of the agents in any way, beyond the authority and protection which they now enjoy as members of the RCMP, under the Criminal Code. I have heard all those people who have criticized it. I would ask the Hon. Member to take out the Criminal Code and read Section 25, which now provides for the limited protection that peace and police officers have in the exercise of their duties, and compare it with what I propose in the Bill. The words are not the same. The effect is the same. Members of the new agency will have no more power or authority than they already have in carrying out duties in national security under the Criminal Code.