

Adjournment Debate

serious problems which exist in the RCMP, and I would have thought that the Prime Minister could have written himself to say: Jean-Robert, do not worry, I am taking care of this; we are going to do something. Madam Speaker, nothing has happened, absolutely nothing. Tonight, I am asking the Parliamentary Secretary first what has happened to the RCMP report which was supposed to be submitted to the President of the Treasury Board and, finally, when we will have answers to our questions.

• (1815)

[English]

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) has again raised the question of the future direction of the Official Languages Program of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The question is an important one, and the Hon. Member is to be commended for the perseverance and tenacity with which he has pursued this important issue.

As recently as last Thursday, June 11, 1987, the Hon. Member was assured in the House that the Minister had submitted certain proposals to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) with respect to the Official Languages Program of the RCMP. It was further indicated at that time that these proposals would include the initiatives which would allow the RCMP to achieve the long-term objective of becoming a more bilingual institution, representative of the two official language groups in this country.

The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier is also aware that the Solicitor General (Mr. Kelleher) will be appearing before the Joint Committee on Official Languages tomorrow afternoon. As a member of that committee, the Hon. Member will have the opportunity at that time to pose his questions directly to the Solicitor General.

The Solicitor General has placed the Official Languages Programs within the RCMP and CSIS high on the list of his immediate personal priorities. Indeed, when he became aware of the complaints by CSIS personnel in respect of the use of the official languages in that organization, he pursued an initiative undertaken by his predecessor, who asked the Security Intelligence Review Committee to examine closely the entire question. The Security Intelligence Review Committee submitted its report to him, and the Minister endorses its recommendations.

The RCMP submission on official languages was considered by Treasury Board last week. I do not wish to pre-empt the Solicitor General in any statements or announcements he may wish to make concerning this submission when he appears before the Joint Committee on Official Languages tomorrow; however, I can assure the Hon. Member that he will be pleased with the official languages initiatives to be undertaken by the RCMP. I am sure he will find himself agreeing that the areas of concern previously identified by him and his colleagues on the Joint Committee will have been addressed.

• (1820)

PAROLE—BRITISH COLUMBIA EXPERIMENT USING ELECTRONIC MONITORING ANKLE BRACELETS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Madam Speaker, what sort of summer jobs did you have when you were a student? I suspect that at least some of them were involved with the theatre. However, personally, I had quite a variety of summer jobs.

I remember, for instance, working for two summers in what was then called the IBM department of Imperial Life. It was a department which used at that time things called punch cards and huge machines called sorters, collators, and calculators. You remember that sort of thing, Madam Speaker.

Of course times have changed and they have changed very rapidly since that time. Now we have smaller and faster machines, machines with greater capabilities and greater capacity. Those machines are not now called calculators but are called computers.

Computers have a great many functions and uses. In fact, no office can be without one. You may have one in your own office, Madam Speaker. You certainly have a word processor and an electronic mail machine. Industry cannot be without them.

Recently I have found even relatively small industries in my constituency using computers. For example, Erno Manufacturing, which makes office equipment, has computerized machinery. Dorothea Knitting Mills—and you probably have a Parker sweater, Madam Speaker, which was made in my riding by Dorothea Knitting Mills—has computerized knitting machines.

The Government has computers for sending out tax bills. Computers are used to send out water bills and hydro bills. The Government has econometric models for calculating the effects on the economy of different problems. Of course we have computers in our homes. For instance, it was interesting the other day to find out from the architect of the Dome Stadium in Toronto that it would have been impossible to build the retractable roof on the stadium without computers to make all the mathematical calculations.

With all these computers being used, it is no wonder that someone has thought of applying the computer to our parole system. This concept provides that offenders who are nearing the end of their prison terms can actually volunteer to be fitted with a tamper-proof bracelet around the arm or ankle and, when they finish their sentence, they finish it at home rather than at a half-way house. There is a tiny computer in the bracelet which is linked to a central computer. It records every time the offender strays outside a 50-metre range of his or her home telephone. That is how the electronic arm or ankle bracelet works. Officials are immediately notified by way of the transmitter and computer of a possible escape or a possible curfew violation by the offender on parole.