

*Oral Questions*

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Brewin:** In the words of the Inquiries Act, this involves the conduct of any part of the public business thereof. I say to the Acting Prime Minister, in this case that comes before parliament it is more than obvious that a full and independent inquiry is required.

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, as my colleague, the Solicitor General has said, the RCMP have initiated inquiries that have led to a number of prosecutions. Some were found guilty and others must be presumed to be innocent until they are found guilty. I believe that it would not serve the cause of justice at present to follow the suggestions of the hon. member.

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[Translation]

**ENERGY****SARNIA-MONTREAL PIPELINE—DURATION OF AGREEMENT WITH INTERPROVINCIAL PIPELINE TO COVER FIXED COSTS**

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

It is a question which I feel is as important as the one previously discussed. In view of the fact that the minister has just announced that an agreement has been concluded between the federal government and Interprovincial Pipeline Ltd., could he tell us whether under that agreement, the guarantee by the Canadian government to make up the probable deficit as a result of a shortage of oil to be carried will be in effect for an undetermined period or a specific term?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, first I must say that we have not yet closed the contract with Interprovincial Pipeline. Supplementary estimates are now being considered by the national resources committee and the contract is being discussed by that committee.

But if the minister is authorized by Parliament to carry out such a contract, there will then be an obligation, for the whole period of the bonds, of the 20-year investments, to give such a guarantee in the event the supply of crude oil from Sarnia to Montreal is cut off.

**Mr. Laprise:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary.

In view of the announcement made recently that oil supplies in western Canada are almost exhausted, does the minister still believe that the pipeline is needed to bring oil that will no longer exist in four or five years?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I must point out that the National Energy Board has indicated that until 1983, there will be ample supplies of oil for the eastern Canada market. If there should be such a cut-off of supply for the eastern Canada refineries, the pipeline being a reversible one might be used also for the Toronto and even perhaps the Sarnia refineries.

[Mr. Brewin.]

[English]

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****HAMILTON HARBOUR DREDGING CONTRACTS—ALLEGED DENIAL OF HAMILTON POLICE AND OPP THAT THEY WERE ASKED TO INVESTIGATE**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Solicitor General in light of the serious contradictions between the statements of the Solicitor General, the Hamilton police and the OPP.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Alexander:** Now that the OPP and the Hamilton police have indicated that they have never been asked to investigate the Hamilton harbour activities, does the Solicitor General still maintain that they have been asked to do so? We would like to try to clear up this contradiction, and I hope the minister will give me an answer.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Yesterday afternoon when I heard about this response from the Hamilton police and the OPP I checked once more with the RCMP here in Ottawa and they told me to stand by what they told me originally. I have now asked them for more details about the contacts that were made and I will give this information to the House as soon as I have it.

**HAMILTON HARBOUR DREDGING CONTRACTS—IDENTITY OF PERSON REQUESTING HAMILTON POLICE AND OPP TO INVESTIGATE**

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** I have a supplementary question for the minister who does not seem to have known what he was talking about on March 10. I wonder if the minister can now look into his records, which I know he has, in order to determine who asked whom what with respect to the police and the OPP, whether it was his officials or the RCMP who went to the Hamilton police and the OPP, and would he identify him, or whether it was a member of the city council of Hamilton, and would he identify him and say where it was. Will the minister look into those records in order to give us his answers when he is replying to the other statement?

● (1500)

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, I explained to the House that these matters are not listed in my records.

**An hon. Member:** Why not?

**Mr. Alexander:** Not your records, in the RCMP records.

**Mr. Allmand:** The hon. member said when I looked in my records. He should be more precise. When the question was raised in the House, I followed the usual channels. I checked with the RCMP in Ottawa. They, in turn, checked with the RCMP in Hamilton, and the information came through that way.

**An hon. Member:** Blame the mounties.