

refunds sent to individual and corporate taxpayers. My colleague, the Minister of Supply and Services, has not only implemented throughout Canada a delivery service for social benefit cheques, but he and this Department would also like to use this system for government purchases from Canadian businesses so that the payments can be made as quickly as possible. I think that it is uncalled for to say that we do not want to settle the postal strike, that it is misleading the House and Canadians, and that it is quite unacceptable. Not only have the President of the Treasury Board and the Postmaster General maintained the negotiating team at all times, but like my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board, I am myself in daily contact with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the Canadian Association of Small Businesses and other groups of small businesses in Canada to try to find a way to help them to get through this difficult period.

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[English]

NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD

RECOMMENDATIONS IN NUFFIELD REPORT RESPECTING POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. As the minister knows, this week he made public the Nuffield report, the report of the working group on conditional release. That group unanimously urged that there should be no further political appointments to the National Parole Board, appointments such as those of former Liberal MPs Gaston Clermont, Prosper Boulanger, and defeated Liberal candidate Anne Cools. Will the minister confirm that, in fact, he received this report in March, well before he reappointed Anne Cools to the National Parole Board in May and well before he appointed defeated Liberal MP. Simma Holt to the National Parole Board in June, ignoring the recommendations of this important working group? Why did he ignore these recommendations and engage in such blatant political pork-barrelling?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, in fact I had received that report. It has been made public for the gathering of public reaction. Anyone who can read the report will see how grossly the hon. member opposite has exaggerated the recommendation of the commission, which merely amounts to a suggestion that there is a danger in having too many political personalities appointed to the parole board. As it happens, I agree with that recommendation.

I point out that out of the 26 full-time members of the parole board only four are former members of Parliament or members of provincial parliaments. I believe the board should contain broad representation of the community point of view. These are former policemen, former prison officials, clergymen, businessmen—the widest possible variety of representation—on the board. As I indicated a few days ago, I am proud of all the members who have been appointed to the board, but

Oral Questions

particularly of Simma Holt because she is the first woman journalist who ever covered the prison beat. She has written books on prisons. She was one of the principal authors of the McGuigan report, which has been responsible for considerable reform of the penitentiary system in the last few years. I am sure she will do a very good job.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): As the Solicitor General has indicated, there are four members with impeccable Liberal credentials on the Board, two of whom were appointed after the minister received this report.

● (1150)

IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): I have a supplementary question, Madam Speaker. Will the minister tell this House how long he intends to consult before he intends to implement the recommendations of this important report for long overdue changes to the judicial relief system in Canada? Will he, at the very least, give this House an assurance that until those consultations are completed there will be no further appointments of a political or quasi-political nature to the National Parole Board, appointments which the working group said can affect the quality of justice delivered by the National Parole Board?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I intend to recommend new members of the National Parole Board as vacancies arise. I would also like to note that the committee itself made no recommendations for an improved or alternative system of appointments. So if I were not to proceed in the way I have so far and look to the report itself, there would be no solution for appointing people.

I think the important consideration is to find individuals of good, sound judgment who can make decisions and guesstimates, in effect, about the possibility of the individuals before them committing more crimes. I hope the public will react quickly to the recommendations contained in that report. There are nearly 100 of them. I hope that in very short order, perhaps a few months, I will be able to form conclusions about the way in which all the recommendations will be dealt with.

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AVIATION SAFETY

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN DUBIN REPORT

Mr. Douglas Fisher (Mississauga North): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Several weeks ago the first Dubin report on air safety was released and aviation groups across Canada unanimously called for speedy action on its recommendations. I wonder if the minister can tell us now what progress he has subsequently made to put the Dubin recommendations into practice and to make Canada's air safety system safer?