

*Oral Questions***MCDONALD ROYAL COMMISSION**

## REFERENCES IN REPORT TO POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY RCMP

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Right Hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will know that the major report of the McDonald commission was finally submitted to the cabinet earlier this week and is at present being reviewed by his friend, the Clerk of the Privy Council, Michael Pitfield. In view of the fact that this report examines, among other things, the extent of possible Liberal government involvement in illegal activities by the RCMP and of the lack of accountability by previous solicitors general for the activities of the RCMP security service, what action does the government intend to take to ensure that the report is not effectively censored solely by that very Liberal government in an attempt to remove any potentially embarrassing or damaging references to Liberal cabinet ministers, including the Prime Minister?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the question seems to me a little tendentious when the hon. member says that the report will be reviewed by one of my friends. I have many friends—not many, but some friends—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An hon. Member:** Mr. Canada.

**An hon. Member:** You don't have them in England.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, the report of the McDonald commission will not be reviewed by any single individual but rather by a group composed of representatives of the Privy Council Office, of the RCMP and, I believe, of one or two other departments. They will attempt to publish a broad and full report of what Mr. McDonald and his commissioners have said. The hon. member knows that much of the testimony was taken in camera and many meetings were held in camera by the commissioners. On the one hand we wanted them to make a full report without keeping anything secret from the government, and on the other hand we had to make sure we respected the secrecy provisions as the McDonald commission wished, and that is the difficult task which is being undertaken now.

I remind the hon. member that the same thing happened with the report of the Mackenzie committee some 11 or 12 years ago. It was impossible to publish it in its entirety because many of its parts were covered by secret classifications which were accepted by the commissioners themselves, namely, Mackenzie, Coldwell and Pratte. So the same thing will happen this time.

The hon. member will recall that last time, after the abridged version had been released, the commissioners were asked, I believe by the opposition members or by the media people, whether the abridged version was hiding anything which was of partisan interest to the government, and the answer was no. I expect that the same procedure will take place this time.

● (1150)

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister knows very well that there was no suggestion at the time of the Mackenzie commission of possible substantial wrongdoing on the part of Liberal government cabinet ministers. The Prime Minister seems to be suggesting that somehow, because he has friends in the RCMP who are also reviewing this document, that will assist in the independent review. I suggest that certainly does not restore the confidence of Canadians in that review process.

My supplementary question is this, Madam Speaker. The Canadian people know only too well of the solid Liberal pedigree of the McDonald commissioners themselves. For example, Commissioner Gilbert donated very generously to the Liberal party, while he says—

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** My question, Madam Speaker, is this. In view of what some would call this unholy alliance between the McDonald commission and the Liberal government, will the government give serious consideration to permitting at the very least the all-party justice committee of the House of Commons, representatives of all parties on that committee, examination of the full unexpurgated report of the McDonald commission, at an in camera session if necessary?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, it seems to me the hon. member is putting himself in something of a Catch-22 situation. First, he does not think the abridgement will be right or fair. He then points out that the report itself probably will not be fair because those who wrote it have, as he says, Liberal pedigrees.

**Mr. Nielsen:** There is no such thing.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Well, Madam Speaker, we are proud to be a party of the common people.

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

**Mr. Trudeau:** It seems to me the hon. member is questioning the integrity of the commissioners, something which I do not do, and something which I think no one on this side did when we named a prominent NDPer, Mr. Berger, to head a royal commission. We did not discount the results of his inquiry because they were written by a former NDPer. Nor did we discount the Mackenzie report of 1969 because it was written by M. J. Coldwell. I think the hon. member should think a little about what he says before he speaks.

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**VETERANS AFFAIRS**

## PENSIONS—DELAY IN HEARING OF APPLICATIONS

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton):** Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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