

minister is aware of the fact that one week from today Amax Limited intends to start dumping toxic waste into Alice Arm in British Columbia. Yesterday I received a letter from Dr. Mercier, head of the international program on chemical safety of the World Health Organization in Geneva. Dr. Mercier confirmed to me that the dumping of toxic waste at Alice Arm is subject to OECD controls. Has the minister filed a report or received approval from the OECD?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Madam Speaker, I am not sure I accept the use of the word "toxic" as the hon. member uses it. This might spread a fair amount of fear in a situation where reputable scientists have already made a judgment. But to make sure, I have asked three distinguished scientists from British Columbia to review the matter and give me their advice. As soon as they have given me their preliminary report, I will, of course, try to act on their recommendations.

**Mr. Fulton:** The minister did not answer my question as to whether or not anything has been filed with OECD. I think the House can safely assume that it has not, and if there is anybody around here who should be afraid of something, it should be the minister.

During the summer and fall of 1978 four federal government scientists, whom the minister knows well, namely, Darcy Goyette with EPS, Mike Nassichuck with Fisheries and Oceans, Pat Nasmyth with the Institute of Ocean Sciences, and Don Trethewey of the Canadian Wildlife Service, looked at the existing information on the proposed dumping of toxic tailings into Alice Arm. My understanding is that they were pretty well unanimously opposed to the project. On just whose scientific advice did the minister and the cabinet put through that special order in council?

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Madam Speaker, I am not familiar with the report which the hon. member uses as a basis for his question, if there is a report. The fact is that the scientists from my department, who are responsible for advising me on matters affecting fish, advise me that in their judgment they were willing to let the regulations, which were promulgated by order in council, go ahead. They reviewed their recommendations.

To ensure that my own department does not examine itself, I have recommended that a scientific panel of distinguished outsiders look at the matter and give me their advice. I will await their report.

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● (1450)

[Translation]

### THE CONSTITUTION

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT STUDIED KERSHAW REPORT

**Mr. René Cousineau (Gatineau):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. A few weeks ago the

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minister stated in the House that he would examine the report of Mr. Anthony Kershaw. Has he had time to examine this report, and if so, is he ready to comment on it?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development):** Madam Speaker, when I appeared before the committee, I said that we would examine the legality of the situation. Later today, I shall table a paper in the House explaining the position of the Canadian government.

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[English]

### CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

REVIEW OF SALARY AND ALLOWANCES

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, my question concerns pay increases for the Canadian Armed Forces, notice of which I gave to the Minister of National Defence. In his absence I will direct my question to the acting minister, who is the Secretary of State for External Affairs; or perhaps the President of the Treasury Board can provide information on this matter.

I believe the salaries and allowances payable to members of the Canadian Armed Forces are under review at the present time. The current rates apply only to the end of March, 1981. Can the responsible minister indicate whether there is a salary review under way? If so, when will it be completed, and when can members of the Canadian Armed Forces expect to know about and receive pay increases for the next fiscal year?

**Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board):** Madam Speaker, indeed there is such a review, actively under way. I hope the government will be in a position to announce the pay increases within the very near term, hopefully before April 1.

COMPARABILITY WITH PUBLIC SERVICE

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board indicated public service pay increases were in the area of 10.8 per cent. I hope that the pay increases for members of the Canadian Armed Forces will at least equal that figure.

There is another complaint concerning members of the Canadian Armed Forces. It is with respect to their pay levels falling below those prevalent in the public service. In fact some tradesmen receive less than their equivalents in the public service. Can the minister indicate whether any steps are being taken to rectify this disparity and provide pay comparability for members of the Armed Forces, which will effectively relate them to the members of the public service, even though they do not expect to receive the same pay levels as those in the private sector?