

*Oral Questions*

two, are directly involved in the committee that canvasses for donations? Is he aware of that, and does he intend to announce, in coming days, his decision to put an end to the political game, I repeat, the political game of partisanship which seems to inspire the Crown corporations?

**Mr. Clark:** Mr. Speaker, that is why we are now reviewing the arrangement.

[English]

## ALLEGED GOUGING OF PUBLIC BY OIL MULTINATIONALS

**Mr. John Evans (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, in light of the very questionable pricing practices and the literal gouging, to the tune of more than \$100 million, of Nova Scotia citizens by Imperial Oil, an Exxon affiliate, as evidenced by a civil trial in Halifax and reported recently by the *New York Times*, can the minister tell us if he intends to launch a full investigation of the pricing practices of oil multinationals, particularly Imperial Oil, and if not, why not?

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

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the question of profits of multinationals and other oil companies, for that matter, is under constant review and surveillance by the department. If the hon. member has any specific information on which to substantiate the allegations which he has made, I would be glad to receive them.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Read the papers.

**Mr. Evans:** Mr. Speaker, does the minister not recognize that the existence of a national oil company like Petro-Canada, belonging to all Canadians, would prevent the spread of such practices and would keep the Canadian government and those large multinationals honest in Canada?

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I am sure when the hon. member re-examines his question he will recognize an argumentative tone in it.

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## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

## SALE OF CANDU REACTORS TO ARGENTINA

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Ottawa-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for International Trade. If there was any uncertainty as to the system of safeguards that the previous government had offered the government of Argentina—as seemed to be said by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce sitting in the other place, and I could quote him on that subject—why did the Minister of International Trade wait four months before going to Argentina to rectify that possible discrepancy?

[Mr. Roy (Beauce).]

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

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, the question of safeguards was clearly understood by the Argentine government in this recent negotiation. They were precisely the same safeguards as were applied by the former government, and it was made quite clear to them that these safeguards would apply in the contract under negotiation; there is no doubt about that.

As far as any delay by myself going to Argentina, there were a number of matters under review. These were taken into account in the process of reaching a decision to support it, and we went to Argentina as soon as those matters were complete.

**Mr. Pepin:** Mr. Speaker, I understand that the safeguards offered by the previous government are not the cause, in any way, shape or form, of the sale not being made in Argentina.

**Mr. Wilson:** Mr. Speaker, in the discussions I had with people in Argentina, as well as has been made clear in the report of the nuclear agency of Argentina, the factor of safeguards was a matter in the decision they reached recently on the Candu reactor sale.

The matter was made quite clear. Those, together with the fact that balance of the existing contract does run into some problems that have taken place over the last four or five years, were the two factors that led to the Argentine government taking the decision to develop alternative technology in Germany to provide a second source of supply for this important contract.

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● (1440)

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

## INVESTIGATION BY McDONALD COMMISSION—ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and concerns the order in council passed by the former government just prior to leaving office, prohibiting the McDonald commission from examining minutes of the cabinet or cabinet committees during the ministry of the right hon. member for Mount Royal unless he gives permission to do so.

Will the Prime Minister and the government give serious consideration to amending, repealing or replacing this order in council and any other similar orders in council which would permit complete examination on all matters concerning the RCMP, particularly in the field of national security, by the McDonald commission and the Government of Canada?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we have no intention of repealing that particular order in council. It was an order in council which, by my understanding, was perfectly in accord with precedents established previously rela-