

*Oral Questions*

assistance from the CIA, against a foreign embassy in Ottawa which was unfortunately interrupted by the unexpected return of the occupants of the apartment being used for that purpose. Given that the essence of such operations, commendable as they are, is that the agents not be caught, and as a result of this fact the then secretary of state for external affairs, the Hon. Mitchell Sharp, found it necessary to phone John C. Doyle, of Canadian Javelin fame, who just happened to be the owner or occupier of the apartment, when these agents were caught, could the Solicitor General tell us what ramifications, if any, flowed from this rather embarrassing incident? Is he prepared to say that the McDonald commission was given access to this for evaluation?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, let me begin by saying that I have no knowledge of that particular file, whether it exists or not, and whether it has been accurately described by the hon. member. I would certainly confirm, and it is a matter of public record, that the McDonald commission has been given full access to all the records of the security service of the RCMP and of the whole of the RCMP.

## PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATIONS

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Madam Speaker, I want to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether, in instances like this where sensitive operations are mounted by the "E" specials or other arms of our security service against foreign embassies—in this case it was the People's Republic of China—there is any prior consultation between his officials and the officials of the department of the Solicitor General to see if these operations are properly mounted, and to give him, or his predecessors, advance warning in case something should go wrong, as was the case in this event?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Madam Speaker, without accepting any of the premises of my hon. friend's question with respect to such operations, I can say that it is our practice, certainly, to consult fully among ourselves before taking any significant action as a government.

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● (1500)

## EMPLOYMENT

## REDUCTION IN ALGONQUIN COLLEGE BASIC SKILLS PROGRAM

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Madam Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In the last couple of days it has been announced that Algonquin College in Ottawa will probably have to cut its staff by 100 people. This cutback has been occasioned to a large extent as a result of a reduction in the number of seats which the minister's department contracts with the college, particularly for courses such as basic skill training and business. Given the very large number of people in Canada who

are functionally illiterate and need this kind of training, would the minister explain why his department is cutting back these courses at Algonquin College and whether his department is ordering similar cuts in other community colleges across Canada?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, in reply to the hon. member's question, the decision to cut back the basic skills program is a decision Algonquin College is making. It is not one that we are making. We happen to think that the investment in basic skills is a very useful one, and we want to see it continued, but that is a choice being made by Algonquin. However, I can assure the hon. member that in terms of training programs we are maintaining the assistance and the training allowance for the provinces at the same level or at a higher level in the coming year.

As the hon. member knows, each college and the curriculum of each college are determined by provincial authorities. We simply buy the places. In this case I think his question would be better directed toward provincial authorities.

**Mr. Orlikow:** Madam Speaker, in each of the last five years there have been substantial reductions both in the funding and in the number of people who have been permitted to take the basic skill training or basic education programs. In every city where the parliamentary task force on employment has held hearings, we have had representations made emphasizing these programs and urging the government to increase rather than decrease the funding. Could the minister explain why this situation has occurred when he now says that it is the fault of the provincial government?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Madam Speaker, as changes occur in occupational areas, there are different demands for new skills. There has been increasing demand for skills of on-the-job training, skills which can be acquired in the industrial area, not in the institutional area in the experience of our commission. If the hon. member would look at the shift in funding and in the allocation of our funds for the last several years, he will notice that the funds increasingly have been going into the development of technical and manual skills where the demand is highest. This will apply both now and in the future.

We have tried to adapt to changing labour markets instead of being struck with the status quo. That is why we are shifting the allocation of our training skills into those areas where they are most seriously needed.

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## INDIAN AFFAIRS

## IMPLEMENTATION OF JAMES BAY AGREEMENT—REQUEST FOR REVIEW

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As the minister knows, there is a considerable amount of dismay, disappointment and anger on behalf of the