

Oral Questions

I understand the hon. member has a great deal of concern for this issue and I share his concern, but in regard to the environmental assessment itself the government has followed a certain number of recommendations. It has made some evaluations in regard, for example, to the runways and the recommendations made in the report. It also found that its own experts did not agree with some of the recommendations made in the report, more specifically on the north-south runway and for that reason chose to follow the course it has followed.

I may add by way of information for the hon. member, whether on this issue or another one mentioned earlier today, that individual departments direct the environmental assessments according to the environmental assessment review guidelines we are now living under.

That is a critical element in the implementation of the environmental concern. It is critically important that each department assume its environmental responsibilities and that it takes the recommendations in regard to the over-all concerns they have to deal with, and that is what the Department of Transport has done.

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CRIME PREVENTION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. However, before I ask it I want to tell my good friend, the Prime Minister, that I hope he does not change his mind. I am looking forward to seeing him where old prime ministers go: Madam Tussaud's or whatever.

Mr. Mulroney: Heaven.

Mr. Waddell: There is another direction too.

At the recent conference on crime prevention in Toronto the minister and his officials heard the same kind of evidence that our justice committee heard, namely that we prevent crime by tackling the social and economic conditions that cause crime. When the justice committee heard the same evidence we arrived at a number of recommendations.

What is the minister doing about those recommendations? It seems to me that for him and his colleague, the

Solicitor General, it is all talk and no action. What is he doing about the recommendations?

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend should recognize the results of the symposium in Toronto were very good because we got everybody together, from all parties as well, and I think we are going in the same direction.

We got the report from the standing committee about three weeks ago. I announced in Toronto that we were going to have a *comité du suivi* which would bring all elements of the symposium together. I will go to cabinet very soon to get some initiatives before the House, I would say, this spring.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, the minister talks about a *comité du suivi* or an advisory committee to follow this up. I ask the minister to be specific, because we were in our recommendations. We need a national crime prevention policy with a national council.

• (1455)

I ask the minister to tell the House who is going to be appointed to this committee that he talked about. What is the selection process? Who will the committee report to? What are its responsibilities and what is the timetable? I ask him to be specific, for some action and less talk.

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, I should remind my hon. friend that the symposium was last week. We are just about 10 days past that symposium.

I made a commitment at the symposium that we will get all those good ideas and good initiatives on the table. Before announcing what we are going to do I thought it was better to get what the people wanted us to do.

With this consultation process done now, with the standing committee report all together, I think going to cabinet to get the government's position on those different issues is the way to do things.

I mentioned in my previous answer that we were going to bring it to the House this spring. It is a good time frame.