

assure justice for those who are subject to very serious accusations?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Given the police inquiry, what my hon. friend is suggesting has some serious implications. It will not astound anybody in the press gallery to learn that from time to time they have had leaks from the NDP and the Liberal research offices.

Mr. Gauthier: On a criminal matter? Come on!

Mr. Mulroney: Precisely. There the point is made. In this matter there is an allegation of sufficient importance for us to have called in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The police are presently investigating this matter. If the police believe, in reading the newspapers in the morning or watching television at night, or given any allegation made by a member of the press inadvertently or otherwise, that the matter ought to be pursued, or an individual ought to be pursued, then no matter where that individual is, either on my staff or the staff of the Leader of the NDP, the police will exercise their usual vigilance and good judgment and pursue it to the end.

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INVESTMENT CANADA

WEST KOOTENAY POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY—APPROVAL OF SALE TO FOREIGN OWNER

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister on an equally serious but different subject.

On December 24 Investment Canada made a decision to approve the sale of West Kootenay Power & Light Co. Limited to an American utility; for the first time in the history of this country we are approving the sale of a public utility to a foreign owner, without reference to any of the transcripts or material that was gathered by the B.C. Utilities Commission. Considering the dangerous precedent that this sets in terms of the control of our natural resources, and the impact it has on our international treaties, and the erosion of our sovereignty, will the Prime Minister take action to overturn this Investment Canada decision?

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Investment Canada has reviewed this matter and is satisfied as to its propriety. The Public Utilities Board of the Province of British Columbia is now examining it very closely with a view to ensuring protection of the customers. That review should be concluded shortly.

REQUEST THAT DECISION BE SET ASIDE

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): The Investment Canada decision was taken without any reference to the evidence that had been gathered by the B.C. Utilities Commission. It did not even bother to obtain the transcripts of

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the hearings held. The B.C. Utilities Commission was holding hearings after the Investment Canada decision had been made. Under these circumstances with the incredible consequences it has for our natural resources and for the impact upon our sovereignty, will the Prime Minister, as Leader of the Government, not take the decision to set aside that Investment Canada decision until all these important questions can be answered, and the interests of the country can be protected?

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Very briefly, I think that is what I have just indicated. The Government of Canada is awaiting the outcome of the further review by the Public Utilities Board of British Columbia. Investment Canada is satisfied that it meets the criteria. I need not remind the Hon. Member that this government agency or board is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the protection of sovereignty with respect to the manner in which he raises it.

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CHILD CARE

REQUEST FOR FUNDING TO EXTEND SERVICES

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): My question is directed to the Prime Minister on another important question. The Prime Minister knows that the crisis in child care is urgent, and that children are at risk in many care arrangements. This has been substantiated by researchers, many witnesses and experts.

Will the Prime Minister seriously consider allocating up to \$320 million as a budgeted amount in the upcoming Budget to help stabilize and extend quality child care? As I indicated to him last December in a copy of a letter to the Minister of Finance, will the Prime Minister intervene in this matter?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): I am glad to report to the House that the federal-provincial meeting has concluded and quality child care was the first item on the agenda. Agreement has been reached on a fast-track work plan between the federal Government and the provinces to put forward the solution and a proposal on a national basis for child care, as the Prime Minister when he was in Vancouver had indicated he would be instructing us to do. I am pleased to report to the House that the work is proceeding very quickly, and all provinces agree that a good plan has been put into place.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Vancouver East on a short supplementary, please.

● (1200)

REQUEST FOR FUNDS IN FORTHCOMING BUDGET

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Will he or will he