

law intercepting and reading mail? Did it never occur to him to ask that question?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I repeatedly asked the RCMP, particularly during the course of the preparation of my statement concerning the APLQ break-in, whether there were any other illegal incidents that ought to be brought to my attention and the answer was no.

Mr. Jarvis: Will the minister please answer the question. Did he ever ask specifically whether security officers were intercepting mail? That is not a general question.

Mr. Fox: Mr. Speaker, during the course of my mandate, I gave specific instructions to the RCMP when I came across the APLQ file. As far as I am concerned, all operations of the force were to be carried out within the framework of the law.

* * *

RESOURCES

PROPOSED COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF MINING SECTOR

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, keeping in mind that recent lay-offs at INCO, Noranda, Alcan, Falconbridge and so on indicate a total lack by those elected to govern this country of any kind of planning and developing the non-renewable mineral resources in Canada, and in view of the fact that weaker nickel markets, investment abroad and a lack of planning of the mining companies and the government have resulted in some 3,000 to 4,000 people being laid off with another 3,000 in six months time, can the Acting Prime Minister advise if this government is now prepared to order a parliamentary investigation into the mineral resource sector of this country with a view to developing an industrial strategy so that Canadians can be assured that their resources will develop with their interest uppermost?

Hon. John C. Munro (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the preamble of the hon. member's question, he should be aware that the government is endeavouring to stimulate the economy so that situations such as INCO will not repeat themselves. I remind hon. members of tax reductions costing in the area of \$500 million to \$700 million. Add to that in the full year next year about \$1,200 million. Add the \$450 million now in direct job creation plus another \$150 million, plus \$100 million going to an employment incentives scheme of the Minister of Finance. This will have considerable impact in stimulating consumer purchasing which will help avoid some of the situations the hon. member is referring to and I believe exaggerating.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL OF TAX CONCESSIONS FROM NICKEL AND COPPER MINING INDUSTRIES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): On October 24, page 157 of *Hansard* the Acting Prime Minister, the Minister of

Oral Questions

Labour, told this House that the Canadian government would not agree to stockpiling nickel because, and I quote:

Increased expenditures or incentives to further increase those stockpiles seem to be putting off the day when we can get this industry back into a healthy condition to guarantee jobs for people who are unemployed.

In view of the Acting Prime Minister's comments that any such assistance would be of no value, can he now tell this House if he would be prepared to withdraw all federal tax concessions from the nickel and copper mining industries, including the \$10 million in the most recent budget? Is he prepared to withdraw all those tax concessions at this point?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The representation is clearly that, not a question. In any case, the answer I am sure will be the usual one related to budgetary disclosures.

* * *

NATIONAL SECURITY

REASON FOR DELAY IN PUTTING SECURITY SERVICE UNDER CIVILIAN CONTROL

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice. Considering action by both the United States Congress and administration to bring United States security surveillance under proper—I underline the word proper—civilian control, considering the open forthrightness displayed by these two wings of government south of the border in relation to the problem, can the minister explain his government's reluctance at the present time, in view of what is going on, to be equally as forthright with the Canadian people and to give the whole problem similar leadership.

● (1452)

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): It seems to me that that is precisely what the inquiry under the chairmanship of Judge McDonald is all about. Apart from having the power to inquire into specific instances of acts committed by officers in the course of investigations which are contrary to the law, the commission is specifically authorized to recommend policies and procedures which should govern the operation of the security services. It would seem to me that the RCMP and its officers are entitled to have that kind of impartial and judicious hearing which will be a matter of public record and which will result in recommendation to the government and to parliament as to what the policy and the law should be.

Mr. Grafftey: My supplementary is this: How many times must the civil liberties of individual Canadians be put down, so to speak, before the government gets a lever on this thing by taking action comparable to what is going on under the United States committee system or with what is being done by the administration and by Congress? Does the minister not agree that what is going on under the government in terms of getting a lever on this situation is too little and too late—that it will be too long before action will be forthcoming?