

IDENTITY OF BRITISH AGENT WHO INTERROGATED IGOR  
GOUZENKO

**Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland):** Madam Speaker, in a matter which so vigorously attacks the reputation of the Canadian intelligence and security establishment and community, I would expect that the minister would be concerned enough to at least inquire.

My supplementary question is to ask if the minister has inquired about the allegations that he repeated the other day, to the effect that the information given to the British MI5 interrogator by Gouzenko differed substantially from information given by that interrogator to the British government. If so, what was the result of his inquiry, and has he now established the identity of that British interrogator?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, I want to repeat that I did not in any way give any information about anything that took place between Gouzenko and others. What he had said was reported to me and I was asked to comment on it. I said that I had also read that in the newspapers, but I certainly was not prepared, and I am not now prepared to comment on that.

I should like to tell the House that the integrity of the security service is certainly a matter of concern to the Solicitor General and that we have operational policies in place to ensure the integrity of the service. It is my responsibility to be satisfied that those policies are in force and are effective, and I am.

REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF ROYAL COMMISSION—ROLE  
PLAYED BY CHARLES HOWARD ELLIS

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville):** Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Solicitor General who is no doubt aware that Mr. Charles Howard Ellis, who was Britain's third-ranking intelligence officer at the end of World War II and who later rose to higher ranks in British intelligence, reported to have been a post-war Soviet agent and allegedly made a confession in the year 1965, which was never made public. Will the minister tell the House whether he has ordered or will order an investigation, or if he has been asked by another government to have one, about any contacts Mr. Ellis had with the Canadian security services?

More important, perhaps, is the minister prepared to recommend to the government that it follow the example of Mrs. Thatcher in England of setting up a royal commission to examine in detail what he says he wants protected, namely the integrity of the security service, and whether that integrity and security have been what they should have been from the time of the Taschereau papers to the present day?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, as to the integrity of Mr. Ellis, that obviously is a matter for the British to look into and for them to take whatever action they feel might be justified. From our point of view I can confirm that I have inquired about it. I have learned that Mr. Ellis had no direct contact with the security service and that he never

*Oral Questions*

came to Canada, for example, for meetings with our security service in a way which might have compromised that service.

Finally, on the question of whether a commission is justified, I do not think that anything that has happened suggests that a commission to investigate the integrity of the security service in Canada is justified. Far from it.

TASCHEREAU COMMISSION PAPERS REVIEW—TERMS OF  
REFERENCE

**Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds-Grenville):** Madam Speaker, I preface my supplementary by saying that there may be no evidence that Mr. Ellis ever came to Canada, but I would point out to the minister that people can be communicated with without coming here. There is such a thing as a telephone, and I am sure that the minister must have heard of it at some time.

Yesterday the minister confirmed, in answer to one of my questions, that a review was taking place of the approximately 6,000 pages, that still have not been made public, of the Taschereau papers, in order to decide whether such items should be made public. I think he neglected to answer the most important part of my question and I would therefore like to repeat it today. What are the terms of reference of the man who is making the review? Can the minister tell the House what those terms of reference are? I am referring to Mr. Branscombe. Will his report be tabled in this House so that it will be public property, and can the minister guarantee to the House that there will be no government interference whatsoever with the recommendations made in Mr. Branscombe's report?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, I confirm that Mr. Branscombe, who is the retired public servant who is doing this work for the Privy Council office, has been asked whether disclosure of the revelations or matters contained within those papers which, as I said yesterday I have not seen, would significantly damage the reputations of any living individuals. When his recommendations are brought forward they will be reviewed by the government and decisions will be made about them. I cannot confirm now that they will be made public because if the recommendations are that the Taschereau papers not be made public, obviously the information in the report ought not to be made public either, for the same reason, that its disclosure would perhaps significantly damage the reputations of individuals who are still living.

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**McDONALD ROYAL COMMISSION**

INQUIRY RESPECTING OPERATION DIRECTED AT CHINESE  
EMBASSY IN OTTAWA

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Solicitor General. I want to ask if the McDonald commission inquiry has been given access to the record of the operation mounted by the security service, with