

Oral Questions

as Operation Dismantle, Project Ploughshares and *Développement et Paix* to suggest that somehow their pursuit of peace and disarmament could be Soviet directed and inspired and thus pose a threat to the security of Canada.

My question is directed to the Solicitor General. Will the Minister now explain to the House and to Canadians why CSIS this year hired several individuals whose responsibility is in fact to watch the mainstream peace movement in Canada? Will this Minister do the right thing now and immediately order a stop to this dangerous, undemocratic practice by CSIS?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I have said on many occasions in this House, CSIS has been mandated by Parliament to investigate anyone who is considered to be a threat to the security of Canada. Under Section 2(b) of that particular Act, a threat to the security of Canada includes foreign influenced activities within or relating to Canada that are detrimental to the interests of Canada and are clandestine or deceptive or involve a threat to any person.

● (1440)

To date I have received no evidence that CSIS has acted beyond the mandate given to it by Parliament.

Mr. Robinson: If that is the case, it is a condemnation of the sweeping mandate the Liberals gave to CSIS when they created the organization.

Mr. Holtmann: Then take it up with Nunziata.

[Translation]

INFILTRATION OF DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I have another confidential document of the CSIS which confirms that our secret service is infiltrating not only the labour movement and the Quebec peace movement, but also legitimate Canadian political parties, namely the Canadian Communist Party and the Quebec Communist Party.

How can the Minister justify this harmful attack against small but legitimate political parties? Why does the Minister believe that the CSIS has the right to infiltrate these democratic Canadian organizations?

[English]

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as I just said, I have no evidence to date that CSIS has acted beyond its mandate. Notwithstanding that, as I said on a number of occasions, I have directed the Inspector General to conduct an investigation to see whether or not allegations of this nature are true. The Security Intelligence Review Committee set up by Parliament under the Act is also conducting an investigation into matters of this nature. The Act is working.

The Act also provides under Section 41 that anyone who feels they are being improperly investigated have the right to go to SIRC and ask for an investigation. I suggest they do that and make the Act work. That is why it is there.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR \$25 MILLION GRANT—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montréal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion, who is responsible for matters involving the greater Montreal area.

The Minister is fully aware that the Committee for Economic and Job Renewal in the East end of Montreal has published its recommendations, showing that despite the economic recovery, and contrary to what the Prime Minister stated earlier, the East end of Montreal is plagued with a very high, 12.4 per cent unemployment rate. In order to prevent the loss of thousands of jobs and to create new jobs, the Committee has put forward some 12 recommendations directly involving the Canadian government.

My question to the Minister is this: Would he be ready to inject \$25 million into the setting up of a bureau to help restructuring and modernizing larger businesses, and to create a special fund for manpower training? Is the Minister ready to give a positive answer to that recommendation of the Pichette Committee?

Hon. Robert de Cotret (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member mentioned, we have received the Pichette Committee report. That most interesting report clearly has required a lot of work. We are going to make an in-depth study of the recommendations and hopefully we will be in a position to respond to its special recommendations within the shortest time frame.

AID—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, the people in the East end of Montreal are just about sick and tired of this Government's numerous studies. This Government has had three years of inaction and thousands of jobs have been lost in the East end of Montreal. And I know this junior Minister is talking about Bill C-22 to manufacture pills in Montreal-north. Workers in the East end of Montreal want to know—as for instance the welder at Bombardier's, the welder at Vickers', the mechanic—when are you going to help him keep his job? Are you going to wait again? Stop studying and start doing your job! They are asking you to use \$25