

Oral Questions

Minister says that he has no concern. This Minister should be fired from Cabinet.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Tobin: I want to ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he will be in touch with the Government of France, specifically the French Prime Minister, Mr. Chirac, and tell him that this kind of provocative action in the face of a breakdown of fish talks will not result in a positive conclusion of these talks and is unacceptable to Canada. Will he do that?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not going to get into the "good cops-bad cops" game with the hon. gentleman from Newfoundland; suffice it to say that one of the problems with the country is that there are too many policemen in the country, in some people's view.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Tobin: That will get you a two out of ten.

Mr. Crosbie: I do not want Members of the House to become alarmed. There has been no change in the relationship between this country and France. There have been negotiations which took place just a week or so ago on the *compromis*. We are hoping that we will have a more positive response from the French Government in the next several weeks.

There has been no change. The French have been sending out patrol vessels to Newfoundland and Canadian waters now for some 400 years. There is no dramatic change.

It ill behoves the hon. gentleman to be crying wolf in the House when it is totally unnecessary.

* * *

TRADE**EXPORT CONTROL POLICY—ALLEGED USE OF CANADIAN-MADE HELICOPTER PARTS BY IRAN**

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. A year ago I raised in the House of Commons the issue of Iranian helicopters powered by Canadian-made motors. I would like to quote the answer of the Deputy Prime Minister at that time. As reported in the November 17, 1986 edition of *Hansard*, he said:

Where there is a clear case of spare parts being used for military purposes, the export permit requests are turned down.

Now we know, a full year after this statement, that Iranian helicopters are still being deployed in the Persian Gulf. They are still in need of and they are still receiving made-in-Canada spare parts.

Why did the Government turn a blind eye to the shipments of Canadian-made parts that are being used militarily in one of the hottest conflict spots on the face of the earth? Why, at

the same time in so doing, did the Government give Canadians their own brand of Irangate?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the short answer to that is that we did not.

I have noted, as have other members of the Ministry, the report on Radio-Canada and CBC last night. To my knowledge all that has changed from last year to this year is that there has been a news report of an old story. Certainly there is no evidence in my possession—and if the Hon. Member has any, I would welcome receiving it—that there has been any shipping of Canadian parts for military purposes to Iran.

When the matter was raised last year I was in touch directly with officials at Pratt & Whitney. I think the House will join me in recognizing that Pratt & Whitney, although not obligated to do so by the law, took decisions to stop shipments to Iran from Canada for peaceful purposes that might be permitted under the law but that also might be subject to diversion to military purposes.

To my knowledge there is no shipment from Canada now. If the Hon. Member has evidence to the contrary, I would ask him to put it before us.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Certainly the Minister knows that these helicopters need Canadian parts to remain operational, and that is the problem.

[Translation]

ALLEGED EXPORT OF PARTS TO IRAN—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I wish the Minister would confirm that the Department of External Affairs has investigated these spare parts shipments that are getting to Iran. I wish the Minister would confirm that the Government refused to publish the report on this investigation, despite a request by the CBC under the Access to Information Act. I want to ask the Minister why the Government is refusing to publish this report. Why is the Government trying to cover up the report's conclusions? Why is the Government passing up this opportunity to take the kind of action that would save lives and reduce hostilities in the Persian Gulf?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I asked the Hon. Member for proof and I did not get any. He asked me for confirmation. I can confirm several things. First, I can confirm that our Government changed the legislation on exports to make the system far stricter than it was under the previous Liberal Government. That is one change we made. Second, I can confirm that I have no indication that Canadian goods are being delivered directly to Iran from Canada. Today, however, I have asked our ambassadors in countries where there may be diversion of Canadian commodities to seek information on how Canadian commodities are handled once they are outside Canada's