

Chauffeur Services in London, the bills for 137 pounds sterling and 126 pounds sterling included a pick up of the Minister at the hotel, sight-seeing around London, a trip to the—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. Is there a supplementary question?

**Ms. Copps:** Since the invoices show quite clearly that both days were occupied in a sight-seeing tour of London, does the Minister not believe that the former Minister should reimburse the taxpayers for this waste of taxpayers' money?

**Hon. Tom McMillan (Minister of the Environment):** Well, Mr. Speaker, before asking a question like that which is certainly insulting, if not slanderous—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Just read the invoices.

**Mr. McMillan:**—the Hon. Member should have satisfied herself that it is not true that the Minister toured environment-related plants, as I indicated a moment ago. Does she have information that would establish that what I have said is incorrect? If so, maybe she should provide it to the House.

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#### AUDITOR GENERAL

##### CONFIDENTIALITY OF FORMER GOVERNMENT'S DOCUMENTS— COURT JUDGMENT

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. Earlier in Question Period the Minister made an extraordinary statement. He said that he had to consider what Justice Jerome had to say about access to information by the Auditor General and that he also had to consider the confidentiality of former Prime Minister Trudeau's documents in the circumstances.

Is he not aware that Justice Jerome dealt specifically with that question about Mr. Trudeau's papers and said in the last sentence of his judgment:

—the refusal of access was unjustified then and therefore remains unjustified now.

That being the case, that being the law, will the Minister provide the documents?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, whether or not that is the law is not yet quite as clear as the Hon. Member seems to imagine. As I said to him in my answer earlier, there are two questions: there is a legal question and there is a moral question. There is the fact that the former Prime Minister, who is now Leader of the Opposition, made a commitment to his predecessor with respect to the papers of that administration, and his predecessor made a commitment to Mr. Clark, who made one to Mr. Trudeau—

**Mr. Broadbent:** It is illegal.

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Crosbie:**—who made one to Mr. Diefenbaker. These are constitutional conventions upon which the governance of the British system rests. Therefore, we are not as sanguine as the Hon. Leader of the NDP who has never been in government and never had to observe any commitments like this before.

#### REQUEST THAT DOCUMENTS BE PRODUCED

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, if I may say so, the Minister is revealing considerable ignorance of the judgment. The Justice considered the conventions the Minister is talking about. In his judgment about those conventions, he said that the Auditor General's right superseded them. Given that fact, why does the Minister not obey the laws interpreted by the Justice and give the documents that he ought to, now?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman's question is premature. We are going to do everything in our power to see that the full details of the Petro-Canada—Petrofina operation are given to the public. We want that, but because we are scrupulous about the convention and about agreements entered into with previous administrations, we are having some difficulty. However, we intend to get that red herring out of the way and then deal with the main question, which is the question of responsible cabinet Government and parliamentary democracy.

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#### CANADA POST CORPORATION

##### THREAT OF PRE-CHRISTMAS STRIKE

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post. Once again there is a threat of a pre-Christmas strike. I believe that this threat shows the union's insensitivity to their customers, who are all Canadians. If they are really looking for support, I submit that they are choosing the worst time to do so.

Since many Canadians consider postal delivery an essential service and, accordingly, no strikes should be permitted, will the Minister seriously consider this option in his deliberations over the next few weeks?

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, Canada Post Corporation is currently negotiating and every effort is being made to reach an agreement.

● (1500)

The Corporation has faced this situation in the recent past and has managed to negotiate settlements at the bargaining table without any work stoppage. We are optimistic that this will occur again.