

PANAMA**UNITED STATES INTERVENTION—STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER**

Hon. Peter A. Stollery: Honourable senators, it is very difficult to get an answer from the Leader of the Government in the Senate on an issue as important as Canadian support for the American imposition in Panama of one of the last great fascist parties in the world, whose leaders were considered by the Americans during the war to be war criminals.

I do not think it is satisfactory, just because he is ignorant himself of the situation, for the Leader of the Government to slough off legitimate questions in the Senate about current government policy and about statements that the Prime Minister has been making in the country about Canadian standard values while the Government of Canada, of which the Leader of the Government is the representative in the Senate, supports loudly and, in the view of some American congressmen and senators, more strongly than they do, the imposition in a country of a government whose leadership has been removed three times by that very country over the last 30 years.

I think the Leader of the Government should at least give us an answer in the Senate or tell us that he will speak with his colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and possibly inform the Prime Minister of the facts, because I do not think he knows anything about it either. I think he is as ignorant as the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear!

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): It is a great pity that the honourable senator is not still in the House of Commons where he could engage in this debate with Prime Minister Mulroney and Mr. Clark. His big mistake was in yielding to the persuasions of Senator Davey and resigning his seat for Jim Coutts a few years ago.

Senator Stollery: That is an ignorant comment by an ignorant man representing the government in the Senate.

I am asking the Leader of the Government for a response regarding current, active Canadian policy. If the leader does not want to respond to that, then I suppose, at some point, we will have to refer the matter to a committee or we will have to take steps to go further. I think that instead of indulging in this kind of insult—at least in his mind—I think involving the government in a racist, anti-Semitic course of events is something that Canadians would like to know about. I know senators, including myself, would like to know more about it. I also think we would like to have a little less superficiality from the Leader of the Government in the Senate.

TRANS-CANADA HIGHWAY**UPGRADING OF NEW BRUNSWICK SECTION**

Hon. Eymard G. Corbin: Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government in the Senate a question, which was asked in editorial form in the *Telegraph-Journal* of

Friday, December 15. For some reason we always seem to receive the *Telegraph-Journal* a week later up here.

The question is as follows:

Can we expect an announcement before long on the upgrading of New Brunswick's Trans-Canada Highway?

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Not today, honourable senators.

Senator Corbin: The editorial also states:

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Federal Transport Minister Benoit Bouchard have both acknowledged the inadequacy of the Trans-Canada and the need for a better highway in this modern age of mass transportation.

But they've held back on making a federal financial commitment. One question is whether Ottawa is stalling until after a national transportation study is completed.

An answer in that regard was provided to me some months ago by the Leader of the Government. I would continue the quotation, as follows:

Another is whether suggested federal spending cuts to help reduce the proposed goods and services tax rate would make Trans-Canada assistance more remote.

Is it for either one or both of those reasons that we cannot have an answer soon?

Senator Murray: I do not think so, honourable senators, but I will undertake to bring to the honourable senator and to the Senate any more-up-to-date information than that which I have given here in answer to previous questions from my friend.

Senator Corbin: I appreciate the answer, but let me conclude this intervention by again quoting from the editorial, which reflects, I believe, the sentiment of all New Brunswickers. It goes on to state:

But New Brunswick can't wait indefinitely for a better, safer Trans-Canada. With a grim prediction that 400 people will die on that highway over the next 15 years unless it's improved, the project has become, quite literally, a matter of life and death.

Senator Murray: Honourable senators, I am not asking my friend to wait indefinitely; I am asking him to wait until next we meet, at which time I will bring in any more-recent information than that which I have already given him on that subject.

DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have some delayed answers to questions.