

## REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING

**Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** In view of the fact that now, because of a leaked document, the minister knows something he has to take responsibility for, and which he should have known before, will he take steps immediately to change the terms of reference to the scientific committee and insist on a public hearing, and insist that guidelines will be laid down in such a way that both sides of this issue will be properly aired, and in the meantime, take steps in consultation with the company to ensure that dumping will not proceed on April 1?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** If having more information now than one had a week ago constitutes a mistake, then I made a mistake. I had incomplete information. I had the information and the recommendation that I was given.

As for the matter of public hearings, it is very clear. I understand the scientific panel intends to hold public hearings. They are perfectly entitled and invited to have a total public discussion of the issue. I hope that they do it on a scientific basis, and if we did make a mistake and if the permit should be cancelled, then I will approach my cabinet colleagues with this issue, and I will ask for a change in the order in council. But surely, while this matter is being discussed now—

**An hon. Member:** What about the dumping?

**Mr. LeBlanc:**—I do not think I could proceed, and I do not think the hon. member would have proceeded differently when he had this position.

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## NATIONAL SECURITY

## TASCHEREAU ROYAL COMMISSION PAPERS—INVESTIGATION OF FURTHER SPY RINGS

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** My question is directed to the Solicitor General, if I could have his attention. In light of the disclosures which are continually being made in Britain, and in light of the findings of the Taschereau-Kellock report, more than one spy ring was disclosed, and those people involved in one of the spy rings were brought to justice. I am wondering if the minister could tell us, from his knowledge of the papers, what has happened to the investigations into the second, third, fourth and fifth spy rings.

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** As I indicated, I have not read the Taschereau papers. They are now being examined under terms of reference which I described to the House a few days ago. Hopefully, if the investigation permits or recommends that they be made public, and if they are, the hon. member will have his own opportunity to comment on them.

Oral Questions  
ACCESS TO PAPERS

**Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** I would like to inquire how it came about that these papers now are being made available for examination when access to them was denied to the Solicitor General in the previous government.

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** I do not agree that access was denied to the solicitor general in the previous government. I think earlier question periods established that the former government had exactly the same right of access to them as the present government. In fact, the present Leader of the Opposition, when he was Prime Minister, indicated in this House—on December 12, I believe it was—that he was planning to establish a task force, or a committee of some sort, which would review those papers to determine whether they should be made public. His answer at that time made it perfectly clear that he had the same authority to make that decision that this government does.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** If we had access.

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[Translation]

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

## INCREASE IN GAS PRICES—INQUIRY WHETHER CONSUMERS WILL BE REIMBURSED

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

The minister is certainly aware that the annual report of Imperial Oil shows a 70 per cent increase in profits, that is, of \$682 million. A month ago, this same minister told this House that his department would investigate the recent increase of 6 cents on a gallon of gas. I therefore ask the minister if this investigation is finally completed and if he is willing to refund the Canadian consumers who have been ripped off?

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General):** No, Madam Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Waddell:** I wonder if the minister is aware that because he did not do anything on this matter, for 30 days, Canadian consumers have lost, with a six-cent increase piggybacked—as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources admitted—onto the previous increases, \$25 million. That is \$1 million per day. I again ask, in light of those figures, and in light of the fact that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources has said that there was something wrong with this increase, is the minister prepared to tell this House now that he will roll back that price increase pending the report of his department?

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** No, Madam Speaker.