

the legislation uses the clearest possible terms in that regard—and in order to protect the integrity of the RCMP and to give the hallmark necessary to every investigation of lack of bias and impartiality, whether it is not government policy, at the precise moment when the matter arises, to order an independent inquiry into such a serious matter as allegations involving the SIU, whether it be the violence allegations or the contributions allegations?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, surely the violence allegation has nothing to do with the Solicitor General; there is no reason to suppose that he is involved in that matter. If they do have to do with questions of integrity, then I explained in my first answer what was the policy of the government and the practice of the RCMP when they are investigating a minister—

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Tell us about Edgar Benson and CMHC.

Mr. Trudeau: Well, Mr. Speaker, I see the opposition is really not trying to get to the bottom of this.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION CONCERNING VETERANS HOUSING

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Would the minister say when he will be introducing legislation respecting veterans housing to take the place of the Veterans' Land Act, as promised by the government during the debate on November 5 and 6?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated before, there has been some study by the government of this question, and in particular by my department and the Department of Urban Affairs, which has progressed quite well and we shall be reporting to the House at an early date.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question which relates to the fact that the right to make applications under the Veterans' Land Act will expire on March 31, 1975. Will the new legislation be ready by that date?

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): Mr. Speaker, I feel that whatever is going to be done will be made known before then. I am not endeavouring to leave the impression that it will be in the form of legislation.

HERMANN REPORT—POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO STANDING COMMITTEE

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact that the Hermann report was delivered to the government in October 1973 and tabled some 14 months later, would the minister advise the House whether he has now considered the preparation of the motion to refer the report to the veterans affairs committee, and has

Oral Questions

he discussed the matter with the leader of the government in this House so that this matter can be attended to at the earliest?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, regarding the hon. member's reference to when the report was made available, I should like to say that when it was first made available to the government it had to be re-edited by the individual who wrote it, as well as translated and printed. This is why I bring to the attention of the House—

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): It was mostly figures that had to be translated.

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan): I want to give some reasons, sir, if you would be prepared to listen for a moment, why the report took considerable time, and I can convey further information to you at a later date. With regard to referring the report to the veterans affairs committee, I have discussed the matter with the House leader. I have also received correspondence from veterans organizations across Canada, which has also been received by the veterans affairs critic on the Conservative side as well as the House leaders of the other parties. Veterans affairs associations have requested us not to advance too rapidly with this report in the committee to give them sufficient time to make a study of the matter before they appear before the committee. We have agreed to do this, with the agreement of other House leaders.

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● (1510)

STATISTICS CANADA

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX—SUGGESTED DISCONTINUANCE OF PRACTICE OF GIVING MINISTERS ADVANCE INFORMATION—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce what sort of raw information he can give us on the unemployment figures due to come out tomorrow?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I cannot enlighten the hon. gentleman at all as I have not been enlightened myself.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, could the minister give the House the assurance that this very, to use conservative language, questionable practice of giving certain ministers advance information about the consumer price index figures and other things, before presentation to the public and to the House, has been stopped? Can he assure us that this questionable or perhaps even nefarious practice has ceased?

Mr. Gillespie: No, Mr. Speaker.