

Why can you not do this simple thing and agree to meet with the truckers when they come here? Why can you not become a government that listens?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I should tell my hon. friend that when I was Minister of Transport I went to Windsor and cut a deal and the Independent Truckers did not keep it.

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#### CANADIAN PASSPORTS

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It pertains to the issuance of fraudulent passports.

Yesterday the minister said in this House:

Security is our highest priority in the issue of passports.

Yet her own aid says that they cannot afford to hire enough staff to ensure each application is genuine.

Is security the highest priority or not?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, yes, security is a high priority.

The reason it is the highest priority and the evidence of it is in the answer that I gave yesterday, that the people in the passport office in the consular division, when problems are brought to their attention, immediately report them to the RCMP.

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park):** Mr. Speaker, we know from the four versions of the Al-Mashat report just how accurate the minister's investigations can be.

I want to draw to the minister's attention that the 1991-92 estimates show that the minister has almost \$5 million in the passport office revolving fund. For half that she could hire at least 50 security people to check the documents and guarantors.

Will she protect Canadian security and assure this House that these people are hired at once?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I do not need any lessons from the hon. member on doing my job.

Second, I am satisfied that the passport people who work very closely with the RCMP when there are questions of security will continue to do their job as they have in the past.

#### Oral Questions

I have indeed discussed this within the department as to further steps that may be taken. As I said yesterday, I have asked for a report. We will continue to ensure that the Canadian passport is secure, and security will continue to be our priority.

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#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Again yesterday Canadians were shocked and angered to learn how lax and inadequate government procedures are allowing, this time, drug dealers into our country.

Last June 10, 11 and 12 the Secretary of State for External Affairs, responding to the Al-Mashat inquiry here, told the House that she had a team of officials urgently looking for a secret memo, a memo she was confident would be found.

My question is: where is the memo?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the question of the missing memo has already been thoroughly canvassed.

It is a secret memo, not top secret as members opposite have continued to say. The department has made every effort to find this memo, and it has not yet been found.

We did have an internal investigation on this and, as the hon. member knows, the internal investigation did not produce any evidence of any fraud or anything that should not have existed.

**Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister.

Six months is a long time to be looking for a memo. Although the minister states that the memo in question has not been found, surely the officials searching for that memo have made a report to the minister.

I would ask that the hon. minister make public to us that particular report made by the officials about their search.

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the report that was made was a normal one through the internal security of the department and the security within the department, as the hon. member knows, is an internal matter. I will not