

*Oral Questions**[English]*

**Mr. McCain:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's answer, but in view of the fact that some of the positions which we have taken are to be tabled and revealed to those with whom we will negotiate in the very near future, would the minister try to give this House an answer not later than tomorrow about the committee to be set up, how many negotiators can be present and how many agricultural interests he will allow to be represented?

**Mr. Chrétien:** Mr. Speaker, I undertake to give an answer to the hon. member tomorrow.

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**TOURISM****FEDERAL AID FOR INDUSTRY**

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who is also responsible for tourism. At a recent meeting in Toronto the minister spoke to the tourism industry and was very critical of the industry. He blamed the declining tourism in Canada on the industry itself, which is a complete contradiction of a series of resolutions the travel industry passed at a convention in Edmonton last May where, among other things, the federal government was asked—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. McKenzie:** I would like to ask the minister—

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. McKenzie:** What is the problem?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Fort William.

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**TRANSPORT****ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY—POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSAL TO INCREASE TOLLS**

**Mr. Paul E. McRae (Fort William):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Considering the strong opposition to the doubling of seaway tolls and the inequity that exists between Canadian and American users in that the latter group have public hearings and the Canadian users do not—as a matter of fact, Canadian users have to appear before the American tribunal to have their views aired—is the minister considering a referral of the matter of toll increases to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications or some impartial body? If not, what is he considering in terms of allowing Canadian users to have open hearings so that their views can be heard in an open environment?

*[Mr. Chrétien.]*

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the users interested in putting views forward had the very fullest of hearings before the seaway officials and also in many cases through representations to me directly so that all their views could be taken into account.

As I have said before in the House, it is recognized that those who have to pay a freight rate or a toll are always happier if that toll or rate is low, and that is not surprising. We are in the final stages of discussing with the United States the appropriate course to attempt to put this great waterway on an appropriate basis for its financial viability, and I hope that we will be reaching a conclusion about that in the very near future.

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**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE****REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY FORMER SOLICITOR GENERAL CONCERNING ALLEGED WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION BY FORCE**

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It arises out of an answer given by the Minister of Finance a few moments ago in which he referred to an incident. This question is to the minister in his capacity as a minister of the Crown. The Minister of Finance indicated that the incident referred to in the minister's statement last night was one incident, whereas in the quotation of the minister the minister has said that "it seems that they," referring to the RCMP, "did withhold information from me and from other solicitors general," indicating that this was a course of conduct, which is quite an accusation against the RCMP if it is true.

In his capacity as a minister of the Crown and knowing that all of us in this House are interested in hearing from him, would the minister undertake to make a statement on motions today to indicate to the House what he was referring to, the number of incidents he was referring to and what officers of the RCMP he was referring to so that they can clear themselves? Would he take the opportunity?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Even if the present Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs were to attempt to answer that question, I would rule that he could not. I think questions of that sort can be properly put only to the Prime Minister, the Acting Prime Minister or the present Solicitor General. In fact, questions of that sort have been put already. If the hon. member has a supplementary to those questions—

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** I have a supplementary, and I do not want to offend the rules, Sir. It is a difficult thing, but let us assume the accusation is true. Will the Acting Prime Minister—because there is time now—consult with his colleague the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs to see whether he will make a statement on motions this afternoon—which is coming up in just a few moments—as to what he meant by the allegations which are attributed to him by