

during which the program will be in effect, at approximately half the going interest rate, in order to help small businesses wishing to expand their operations.

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[English]

### CORPORATE AFFAIRS

#### PUBLICATION OF REPORT ON MARKETING OF URANIUM

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. On March 4, in reply to a question put by myself, the minister stated:

—regarding the uranium inquiry, this inquiry by the director is not completed. Obviously, when it has been completed, his findings will be made public.

When does the minister intend to make the inquiry public, as we have now learned, both from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice, that the report is completed? We have had representations all the way from 1977 that this report would be made public. If the minister declines to make it public, how can we believe his statement of June 2 when, dealing with the Petrofina study, he stated:

It was alleged that the study made by my department will not be made public, but I can confirm to House that it will be.

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General):** Madam Speaker, I would not want the hon. member to misinterpret what I said in this House last March. What I said in reply to a question was that the findings of the director of investigation would certainly be known and made public. This has been done since the document has been referred to the Department of Justice for review. I can therefore say that the findings of the director have certainly been made public. This is a known fact, as the hon. member is aware. The whole matter is now in the hands of the Department of Justice.

[English]

**Mr. Stevens:** Madam Speaker, that is absolutely fantastic.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Stevens:** On March 4, the minister told us that the findings of the director would be made public. Now we are told that the conclusions have been made public in the sense that there has been a reference to the Minister of Justice.

**Miss MacDonald:** Shame!

#### CABINET DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Madam Speaker, my follow-up question is directed to the Prime Minister. It touches on certain representations which he has made concerning the inquiry, including the representation in 1977 that it would look into everything, including possible government illegalities.

#### Oral Questions

Also it is in reference to the statement made by the then minister of consumer and corporate affairs that all documents would be shown to the director, including cabinet documents.

Would the Prime Minister indicate whether all cabinet documents, including minutes and memoranda of cabinet, were shown to the director, or is what is now being represented true, that the Prime Minister secreted these documents and said that the director could not pursue them?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** I have no recollection of any documents having been refused to the director of combines investigation. But I am very happy to take notice of the question. Perhaps the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs has the answer; I do not.

**Mr. Crosbie:** You are the hon. secreter.

#### PUBLICATION OF REPORT ON PURCHASE OF PETROFINA BY PETRO-CANADA

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. He has just said that his interpretation of publication of the findings of a report are that those findings will be passed to the Minister of Justice who can then keep them secret. That is his definition of publication in so far as the cartel inquiry is concerned.

Will the minister tell us whether that same definition of being published applies, in his judgment, to his commitment in the House to publish the report and the inquiry into the Petrofina matter? Will that also be published by passing it in secret to another minister who can keep it secret? Is that the extent of his engagement to the House?

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Postmaster General):** Madam Speaker, if the Leader of the Opposition were a bit more versed in law, he would know that two investigations were carried out by two different services in my department. The investigation concerning Petrofina was carried out by the Bureau of Corporate Affairs, and the procedure used is quite different from that available to the director of combines investigation. In the latter case, the director has the legal obligation—and if the Leader of the Opposition is not aware of this, I shall tell him—to do only one of three things. First, he can refer his investigation to the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission, which was done in the case of the oil companies. Of course, the evidence that he collected was made public at the discretion of the president of the Commission.