

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Nunziata: In view of the serious nature of the problem and in view of the excellent nature of the recommendations of the review committee, rather than again reviewing that particular area will the Solicitor General take immediate action to implement the recommendations of the review committee? I should add—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Nunziata:—that the review committee took over a year to review the counter-subversion area of the Security Intelligence Service.

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, it is quite obvious I have taken action, and very speedy action, by announcing the formation of this team to implement the recommendations contained in the report. If I may quote from the report itself, on page 3 the SIRC committee stated that CSIS:

—is an important national institution worthy of continued public support.

The dedication and professionalism of CSIS employees is impressed upon us anew at every contact we have with them from one end of the country to the other.

And I agree with them.

MANDATE OF INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Solicitor General. The report of the Security Intelligence Review Committee tabled today states that CSIS has found that a non-violent attack on U.S. foreign policy is a threat to the security of Canada. Does the Minister not recognize that the report by SIRC constitutes a very serious and damning criticism of CSIS's operations, of its failure to distinguish between subversion and dissent?

Will the Minister immediately instruct Ted Finn, the Director of CSIS, to stop spying on law-abiding Canadians who happen to disagree with United States foreign policy? Will the Minister tell him to stick to the mandate of CSIS?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, with the greatest respect, there is no evidence whatsoever in the report that we are spying on people outside the mandate of CSIS. I can assure the Hon. Member and all Members of the House that CSIS acts within its mandate as contained in Section 2 of the Act. Mr. Atkey, the chairman of SIRC, in response to a question this morning, said he found no evidence whatsoever of any warrants being issued with respect to subversive activities contrary to its mandate.

Mr. Shields: Don't let that stop you, Svend.

Mr. Robinson: Perhaps the Minister should understand that you don't even need a warrant to spy on the kinds of agencies about which SIRC expressed concern. The Minister should be aware of that.

[Translation]

INFILTRATION OF UNION MOVEMENT

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): My supplementary is this, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister confirm whether a certain Marc Boivin, of the CSIS, has infiltrated the union movement in Quebec, more specifically the CSN, and in the affirmative, how can the Minister justify such an attack against a democratic organization in Quebec? How can he justify such an unacceptable attack in a free society?

[English]

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member well knows, CSIS, for security reasons, never identifies publicly who its sources are. But I can assure the Hon. Member that CSIS would not target a labour union because it is a labour union. That would be improper and illegal under Section 2 of the Act. It is not within its mandate and there is no evidence it has acted outside its mandate.

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COINAGE

INTRODUCTION OF NEW DOLLAR COIN

Mrs. Mary Collins (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. On November 16, 1984, I asked the Minister's predecessor in the House if the Government would proceed with plans to produce a new Canadian one dollar coin. My request was granted and tomorrow that Canadian one dollar coin is being introduced.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: That's how it works, you guys.

Mrs. Collins: That's right. Considering the problems which have—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: Take your time, Mary.

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member will put her question.

Mrs. Collins: Considering the problems which have plagued the introduction of such coins in the United Kingdom and the United States, can the Minister assure the House and advise us that she is making adequate plans to ensure a successful launch of the new coin and that it will be well accepted by all Canadians?

[Translation]

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, the media publicized the decision concerning this new coin extensively. Canadians have welcomed this initiative