

absolutely nothing mythical about allocations under the Western Economic Development Fund.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Axworthy: It is interesting, Madam Speaker, that this is such a cause of hilarity. Hon. Members opposite obviously are not reading what happened yesterday, because \$3.6 billion, originally allocated under that fund, is now going into the modernization and improvement of the railway system in western Canada. That was a high priority, the major priority for which that Fund was allocated. So there is nothing mythical about it. We went through a very clear examination with Westerners as to what the best use of that fund would be, and the message was very clear—put it into transportation. That is what this Government has done, so that we will have the best transportation system in the world.

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FISHERIES

WORLD MARKET PROSPECTS—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Miss Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries. Given the implications of his answer to me on Monday, is it now going to be Government policy to trade non-surplus fish for uncertain market accessibility, or is the Minister prepared to take a more active role in establishing new world markets for both our non-surplus and surplus fish within the 200-mile jurisdiction?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Madam Speaker, as I said to the Hon. Member two days ago, the policy announced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs in Geneva two days ago, which we worked closely on, will very directly link the fishing allocation in Canadian waters not only with commitments to open up markets for our fish, but, I would go even further, on past performance these countries will have to perform by first buying before having access to our waters.

The second question related to border problems with the United States. That, of course, is a separate issue and, as the Hon. Member knows, is being dealt with in a different forum.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST FOR DESTRUCTION OF FILES

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. One of the most disturbing findings of the McDonald Commission into the RCMP was the fact that the Security Service had opened up over 800,000 files on Canadians most of whom were completely law-abiding. In November of last year the Minister told the Justice Committee and I quote:

—within a month I will announce the file destruction policy of the security service, and file review and destruction pursuant to that policy will begin.

The Minister promised to destroy tens of thousands of files. Well, three months have passed and there has been no action whatsoever. When will the Solicitor General keep his promise to the Justice Committee and the people of Canada, and destroy those files which were opened in a massive violation of the privacy of thousands of law-abiding Canadian citizens?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I continue to agree that tens of thousands of files can and should be destroyed. But since the meeting to which the Hon. Member refers was held, I have been asked by counsel in the Province of Quebec handling a number of cases, about which the Hon. Member is aware, not to destroy files for the time being. I have been working on a policy which I hope in fact to announce in the next few days, about destruction, but I regret that for the reasons I have just given actual destruction of files will be deferred.

MCDONALD COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, we have counsel for the RCMP in Quebec telling the Solicitor General not to destroy files they illegally opened. What kind of system have we got there? How can the Minister possibly defend keeping those files which, in fact, in no way relate to any of the charges presently pending before the courts of Quebec? There is no relationship whatsoever.

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, when is this Minister finally going to make public those portions of the Third Report of the McDonald Commission, which will allow Canadians to make their own judgment on the decision of Attorneys-General, provincial and federal, not to lay a single charge for law-breaking as revealed by the McDonald Commission, a decision clearly in fundamental breach of the rule of law in Canada?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is always very good at giving free legal advice.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Kaplan: I am sure that he would not want me to take any steps which deprive members and former members of the RCMP of any defences they feel they can make in their interests in the trials proceeding in Quebec. That is the reason the files are not being destroyed for the time being. On the other hand, I do intend to announce the policy, and I would be glad to have the Hon. Member's support for it. When he sees it, I am sure he will agree it is an excellent policy. As I say, in the next few days I do hope to be able to come forward with it.

Mr. Broadbent: I want my file.

Mr. Kaplan: So far as the publication of portions of the McDonald Commission Report is concerned, portions which I indicated were being withheld pending decisions by prosecutors and the Commissioner on Discipline, again those are in