

Oral Questions

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Whom are you trying to fool?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Rocky Mountain could be described as a big mouth in a suit.

With regard to other oil sands plants, I refer the hon. member to the action of the Petrofina consortium or, rather, to the decision of the Alberta Resources Conservation Board which has authorized the Petrofina group to go ahead. We are, of course, keeping in close touch with that development. I have to say that I have learned, from my discussions with Shell, that at this point they have been discouraged from going ahead by capital costs rather than from the standpoint of any tax or land policy.

As to the oil and gas land regulations, my colleague, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, has at the moment under consideration proposals with respect to changing land regulations for the Canadian Arctic only. In view of the pressure of the eastern provinces that we should not finalize our land régime with regard to off-shore areas, we have acceded to that request and not done so. We do, however, intend to go ahead with a land regulation system for the Canadian Arctic, that is, for the land area in the Arctic which we now administer. My colleague and I are in the process of completing proposals in that regard.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

DATE ON WHICH FORCE DIRECTED PRIME MINISTER SHOULD HAVE TWO CARS

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I rise for this question which I am about to ask the Solicitor General because of the most unusual observation made by the Prime Minister in his answer to the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings concerning the two \$80,000 armour plate cars which are used by the Prime Minister. He suggested, surprisingly enough, that what had been done was done at the request of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Prime Minister directed the hon. gentleman to ask his question of the Solicitor General. I ask the Solicitor General when it was that the RCMP directed or ordered that the Prime Minister should have not one, but two armour plate cars. In the days of Mr. King, Mr. St. Laurent, Mr. Pearson and in my day we paid for our own cars. When was it that the Prime Minister was asked by the RCMP to have these two cars to protect him. Of course, I am desirous of seeing that he is fully protected at all times.

Mr. Hees: The other prime ministers did not need bullet proof cars.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have not the exact date before me, but I think some time last year the RCMP made a strong recommendation that a second car, a security vehicle, should be purchased for the Prime Minister because the one vehicle had to be used as well for visiting heads of state, such as for Her

Majesty and members of the royal family when they come to this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Allmand: And, Mr. Speaker, it was felt that when visiting dignitaries come to this country, they should be given top security as well as the Prime Minister. In addition, it was found that the one security vehicle was out of use—I do not have the exact figures—for approximately 30 or 40 days each year for maintenance, repair and upkeep; consequently, owing to the increase in terrorism which took place in the world, unfortunately, in the late 1960's and in the present period, it was felt that the Prime Minister and visiting dignitaries to this country should be given top security.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the concern for Her Majesty is fully understandable—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: —although this is the first time the Prime Minister has shown any concern for her.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The right hon. gentleman is not correct. The second car was judged to be necessary, as the Solicitor General just pointed out, because I insisted on giving Her Majesty the privilege of using that RCMP car, out of consideration for her safety.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I have heard specious explanations for wasteful expenditure, but the one I have just heard is new. Will the hon. gentleman produce the record regarding this and why Her Majesty, who visits Canada possibly two, three or four days in a year, is not able to use the car that is to protect the Prime Minister. Will he show on what date this was, because it is unusual for any Prime Minister to reveal a security question such as this. Certainly, this sounds like a specious explanation for an expenditure which cannot be justified.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear to the House that it was the RCMP which strongly recommended—

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): The Prime Minister said he did.

Mr. Allmand: Listen for a while.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): The Prime Minister said he did.