

Oral Questions

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): Mr. Speaker, it is a matter of public record that the Minister of Transport undertook to investigate the allegations, the warnings of the member for Hamilton West six months ago. It is a matter of public record that Mr. Lush, chairman of the Hamilton Harbour Commission, publicly declared that he was severing all business ties in the sale of land from J. I. Case to the Hamilton Harbour Commission.

I now quote from the comptroller's memo at J. I. Case: "Mr. Lush negotiated with Corporate Reality, Mr. Dishman, a fee of \$400,000 as a consulting fee which was approved by Mr. Ashford. My staff did not know about it for forecast purposes. It was not included in the forecast. Please adjust accordingly."

That memo is dated August 28. The \$400,000 was paid to Mr. Lush on August 3. We have spoken, both the member for Hamilton West and I, to the company's lawyer this morning and the payment was confirmed of \$400,000.

Given these facts, will the Deputy Prime Minister move immediately to dismiss Mr. Lush—and these are facts—as chairman of the Hamilton Harbour Commission?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I learned a long time ago to relate facts to allegations.

That is an unfair allegation against a citizen of this country, made on the floor of the House of Commons where he or she cannot represent themselves. I thought better of the hon. member, but I will look into it.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Lush in question was the owner of a reality company that was the exclusive listing agent for J. I. Case in the sale of \$10 million of land to the Hamilton Harbour Commission. The same Mr. Lush was chairman and is chairman of the Hamilton Harbour Commission. Mr. Lush cannot be both the agent negotiating on behalf of the taxpayers of Canada and the agent selling on behalf of private interests.

These are facts. If the minister who promised to investigate six months still refused to move, I ask the Deputy Prime Minister: remove this minister today.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I looked into my hon. friend's allegations last March and found them to be untrue. I will look into them today and I will bet the same answer stands.

* * *

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has known since February of this year that His Holiness the Dalai Lama, an internationally respected religious leader, advocate of non-violence, peace, and human rights and the 1989 winner of the Nobel peace prize, would be visiting Canada at this time to open the Canadian tribute to human rights monument.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister now recognize that the people of Canada feel a sense of embarrassment and anger that the Prime Minister has refused to see this respected religious leader and will he now call upon the Prime Minister to meet with the Dalai Lama?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Monique Landry (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, we recognize the Dalai Lama as an eminent religious leader who has always been an ardent defender of values we hold dear, namely human rights and world peace. We are glad he has been able to come to Canada and share with many Canadians those fundamental values we respect. The Secretary of State met the Dalai Lama yesterday afternoon, because the government has a keen interest in the issues that are uppermost in his mind. We are pleased with the outcome of this meeting.

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, it is not a matter of meeting with the Secretary of State. It is a matter of fundamental respect on the part of the Prime Minister of Canada. And now for my supplementary. Today, I intend to move, at the appropriate time, a motion that the House of Commons give the Dalai Lama a hearing. My question to the Deputy Prime Minister is this: will government members support this motion? Will they let the Dalai Lama be heard before the House of Commons?

Hon. Monique Landry (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, I think I was very clear about our