

Oral Questions

take place. They have received no response. Would he care to comment on that?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism) and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Mr. Speaker, the consultation process on DRIE's native economic programs was launched July 24. We have a team which is inviting interested persons from all across the country to make their views known. To my knowledge, groups in the Yukon have indicated that they will participate in that process. We look forward to their views and suggestions.

• (1140)

TOURISM POTENTIAL OF NORTH

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the same Minister. Tourism is probably the industry with the greatest potential in the North at this time. I understand that the Territorial Government and the Travel Industry Association have been negotiating for some time for a funding agreement with the Minister's Department which would allow for the financing of tourism development. Will those negotiations bear fruit in the near future?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism) and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Mr. Speaker, the Department has been negotiating with that Government on a tourism sub-agreement. The Hon. Member has made several representations to our Department. I can assure him that we should be able to make a positive announcement in that regard within the next few days.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

INQUIRY CONCERNING WHICH UNIONS UNDER ILLEGAL SURVEILLANCE

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Minister of Justice, who reasserted yesterday that the law does not allow the Canadian secret services to spy on the unions. We know however that the CSN was kept under surveillance by secret agent Marc Boivin, and we learned yesterday evening that the former Solicitor General and now Minister of Defence had confirmed in a letter to Mr. Zander, President of the British Columbia Carpenters' Union that his union had also been subject to surveillance.

I would like to ask the Minister if he is ready to recognize that it is time for the Government to throw some light on this scenario which is beginning to sound like a James Bond movie. If unions have been spied on, and two cases have now been

confirmed, can the Minister tell us which other unions in Canada have been subject to illegal surveillance?

[English]

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate the point which I and the Solicitor General have made over the last number of days in response to similar questions. The contention of the Hon. Member is incorrect. The law which governs the operation of CSIS is quite clear in this regard.

Because members of the Progressive Conservative Party were vigilant during the debate on the Liberal legislation setting up CSIS, they were able to bring forward amendments which instituted a series of ways in which the operation of CSIS would be scrutinized and monitored. We have the Security Intelligence Review Committee process. The Solicitor General has augmented this with other examinations of the operations of CSIS. The Inspector General is part of the process of scrutiny to ensure that the agency operates within the bounds of the law.

If the Hon. Member has any specific evidence to justify his contention to the contrary made under the protection of the House, he should do the proper thing, that is, bring it to the proper authorities for investigation by these independent commissions. That would be the proper thing for him to do rather than making general and unsubstantiated allegations on the floor of the House.

REQUEST THAT SURVEILLANCE BE ENDED

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, the Minister cannot have it both ways. He cannot say that it is illegal and not have me ask why it is happening all the same. That is the problem. A letter bearing the signature of the former Solicitor General was shown on television last night which confirms that the carpenters' union in B.C. was under surveillance.

Mr. Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Debate.

Mr. Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): That is a fact. If it is illegal, why is it happening just the same? How many other labour unions are being subjected to this Orwellian type of surveillance? When is the Government going to put an end to this?

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can only remind the Hon. Member that this specific question has been answered by the Solicitor General. He does not accept the premise of the Hon. Member's question.

My information from the Solicitor General and his Department is that CSIS is operating within the law, within its mandate, within the legal constraints and obligations placed upon it in the legislation which we inherited from the Liberal Government. If we can give any further information to the Hon. Member in order to be of assistance, he need only ask.