

My question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. It concerns the MacKay-Hatfield affair.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Mr. Sleaze and Slime.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nunziata: Mr. Speaker, Canadians are patiently waiting for answers concerning the Solicitor General's inexcusable behaviour in this matter, and the very serious allegations by Premier Hatfield concerning a so-called RCMP conspiracy to overthrow his Government. Why did the RCMP want to investigate my involvement in the MacKay-Hatfield matter when they did not investigate the Solicitor General's involvement, and did not investigate or interview Premier Hatfield? I would like to know whether the Government instructed the RCMP to investigate my involvement?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of any investigation or investigations that the RCMP might be conducting into any particular circumstance or circumstances affecting the Hon. Member.

REQUEST THAT REPORT BE TABLED

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, we are advised that the internal RCMP report is now in the hands of the Solicitor General. The Solicitor General has steadfastly refused to give us his undertaking to make that report public.

In view of the fact that the Solicitor General's ability to decide objectively whether or not to release the report is impaired by his own implication in the matter, will the Deputy Prime Minister order the Solicitor General to table the report in the House of Commons so that Canadians can have answers to the questions, or is it the intention of the Government to hide the report and keep it secret because it is a source of embarrassment to the Government?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member, and all Members of the House, that we will not be pursuing the kind of practices that were pursued by the previous administration with respect to openness and providing full information to the House of Commons.

With respect to this particular report, I can only repeat the answers I have given in the past in response to that same question which has been repeatedly put to myself, the Solicitor General, and other members of the Government. When the report has been reviewed by the Solicitor General he will bring an objective value judgment to bear on the report.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Unedited?

Mr. Nielsen: The Leader of the Opposition is heckling across the aisle "unedited". Surely he would agree that one of the first responsibilities of the Minister is precisely as I

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described it, and then to inform the House what the decision is.

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MARINE SAFETY

WEST COAST WEATHER REPORTING SERVICE

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. Yesterday afternoon, the Pacific halibut fleet was caught by a sudden storm in Hecate Strait. Winds that had been forecast for 30 miles an hour blew up to 70. Eight boats sent out distress calls. I understand two boats are known to have sunk. Their crews were rescued. Two other boats, I understand, are still missing, along with their crews.

● (1200)

Has the Government increased personnel and weather reporting stations in accordance with a report submitted by her Ministry last fall after five fishermen lost their lives off northern Vancouver Island in a similar storm?

[Translation]

Hon. Suzanne Blais-Grenier (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we are most certainly concerned about the accident reported on the West Coast, but I have yet to receive all the details.

To answer the Hon. Member's question, we have improved our services, as I said we would, in accordance with the recommendations of the LeBlond Report.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: A very short supplementary for the Hon. Member for Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INVESTIGATION

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Transport. Considering the tragic loss of life in this and other situations, will the Minister order a complete, full, and public investigation of all aspects of marine safety on the Pacific Coast, including weather reporting, and the availability and co-ordination of search and rescue facilities?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will take that as a representation.

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CLERK OF PETITIONS' REPORTS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the petitions presented by Hon. Members on Thursday, April 25, 1985, meet the requirements of the Standing Orders as to form.