

Oral Questions

Why does the minister still refuse to deal with those briefs and those suggestions from those very reputable organizations?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have examined briefs which have been received. I have given a good deal of consideration to this particular problem. I intend to receive further representations which I am sure I will be getting later in the month when I resume my meetings with the interested parties.

As the Leader of the Opposition said, the resolutions will be before the House of Commons and they will all be examined in detail, at great length. I also understand and believe this will be an opportunity to delve into this question, to make the comparisons that I have attempted to make—

Mr. Wilson: How long do you need?

Mr. MacEachen: In answer to the question put by the hon. member I want to assure him that I am giving very careful consideration to all these matters and I respect the parliamentary process which provides for detailed examination of all these measures by the House of Commons. That has not yet taken place and I think that is an appropriate place for us to go into these matters in very great detail.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POLAND—PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH
CANADIAN-POLISH REPRESENTATIVES

Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the Prime Minister's meeting with the president of the Canadian Polish Congress and other representatives of Canadian Polish associations yesterday, could the Prime Minister tell the House what the outcome of the meeting was, and particularly whether there was agreement on Canada's position in relation to the very distressing situation in Poland now?

An hon. Member: Just like you wrote it, Pierre.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I would not want to speak on behalf of the members of the Polish Congress.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: You are speaking for Jaruzelski.

Mr. Trudeau: It is not my habit to report the position of others. I think they are able to do that for themselves.

My impression is that we agreed on three fundamental points, the ones that Canada has defended both in the NATO forum and since I made my statement on December 30. The points are that, first, there should be a relaxation and cessation of martial law; second, that dialogue should resume between the Polish government, members of Solidarity and the Cathol-

ic Church; third, that there should be a release of the prisoners who were put in jail following the imposition of martial law.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

QUERY RESPECTING RECOVERY OF FUNDS PAID TO CONVICTED
MURDERER, CLIFFORD OLSON

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General and it again concerns the payment of \$90,000 in blood money by the RCMP to Clifford Olson—an unprecedented agreement which the Solicitor General now admits he did not even know about until it was beyond his control.

In view of the fact that the Solicitor General originally stated that there was no federal money involved whatsoever, and then gave varying percentages, including 75 per cent, I would ask the minister what was the specific source of these funds. Was there some special informer fund? Precisely what percentage was paid by the federal government? Also, despite his statement that the word of the RCMP is their bond, even to convicted killers, what steps is the federal government taking to recover these funds?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, as to the recovery of the funds, that matter is under consideration between the attorney general of British Columbia and the "E" Division of the RCMP, as I have indicated before. I am looking forward to hearing from them at the conclusion of those discussions.

GUIDELINES GOVERNING PAYMENTS TO ACCUSED PERSONS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I note that the minister still appears to be unable to answer what percentage of this was paid by the federal government, or whether anything was paid by the federal government.

Yesterday the Solicitor General refused to assure Canadians that similar payments to those made in the Olson case would not be paid in the future, saying that he would continue to authorize them in accordance with the professional code of the RCMP.

Recognizing the possibility that this practice could lead to disturbed individuals killing for profit, or possibly being induced to confess to crimes that they may not have in fact committed, what are the specific guidelines in the RCMP professional code governing the authorization of such payments in the future?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, with regard to the percentage, I know that the hon. member was sounding off yesterday to the effect that, in his legal opinion, these payments would be entirely from the account of the federal government. That was not my view. My view was