

Oral Questions

bility, as the Minister responsible for the RCMP, to ensure that I had all the relevant information to assist me in ensuring that the force followed its policies and practices? Would they be saying that? I would say to my hon. friend that I fully informed the Commissioner of the RCMP about all of the circumstances which were involved. I hope the Hon. Member will decide—if he has the forthrightness to do so—to tell us if he thinks I committed a breach of the law. If it is a question of whether or not it was proper, he has his opinion and I have mine.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

TIMING OF INFORMATION GIVEN TO RCMP COMMISSIONER

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to talk to the Minister about what is my understanding of his responsibilities. I ask him again, before that meeting took place, did he consult his Deputy and did he speak to the Commissioner of the RCMP about it? He has not answered those questions.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can tell my hon. friend that I kept the Deputy and the RCMP Commissioner informed to the extent that I felt was proper. At this stage I will not get into a post-mortem or an analysis of the various circumstances, before or after the meeting.

PURPOSE OF MEETING

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, the questions I have asked have not yet been answered. I would like to return to the question of what the meeting was about. What was the purpose of the meeting? What did he tell the Commissioner about it? Now that the Solicitor General has told us that he did tell the Commissioner about it, what did he tell the Commissioner?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. former Minister, as I have already indicated, that I have no intention of conducting a post-mortem over the particular details of the meeting.

Mr. Kaplan: Isn't that up to the House?

Mr. MacKay: It may be up to the House. But I am telling the Hon. Member that I conducted the meeting, and all the matters involved in that meeting, to the best of my judgment. If he does not want to accept that, I regret it.

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EMPLOYMENT

CHALLENGE '85—ROLE OF CORPORATIONS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immi-

gration, and it has nothing to do with the Premier of New Brunswick. It deals with the meeting which she had last week, when she reported to the House that she had met with the senior representatives of eight large corporations in Canada. She said that those representatives stated that they would jointly create 10,000 jobs, and that those jobs would add to the number of jobs which would be available to young people this summer.

Over the weekend Noranda indicated that it could not guarantee its fair share. It said:

The business we're in is in kind of bad shape these days.

Another representative from Noranda said: "You can't hire students when you're laying off mothers and fathers".

When the Minister told the House that she had those guarantees—

Miss MacDonald: I did not say guarantees.

Mr. Riis: When she said she had assurances that these individuals would deliver 10,000 jobs this summer for students, is that the case?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it should be of surprise to no one that the New Democratic Party chooses to knock the initiatives of eight corporate leaders in our country. It is a little surprising to me that the members of the New Democratic Party—who say from time to time that they have compassion for the unemployed—are now going after the initiatives which are being taken by people in the business sector. I would urge the Hon. Member to look at the fact that there are people in the business world—corporation leaders, individual small businesses, and people throughout the private sector—who are willing to do their best this summer to help young people. That is what the business leaders will do, and I would advise the Hon. Member to wait until the end of the summer before he levels his criticism at them.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, we are not questioning what the eight representatives of the eight corporations said; we are questioning what the Minister said in the House. The Minister suggested that she had assurances that students were supporting the program. She knows full well that the entire media over the weekend were taken up with student organizations and representatives who said that they did not believe what the Minister was saying.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is this: Who is telling the truth? The Minister said that the private sector—in fact, the eight companies—would provide 10,000 jobs. But, those companies say that they cannot provide those 10,000 jobs this summer because they cannot provide jobs for