

*Oral Questions*

will be able to use this money for Canadian athletes to better our already good performances, in future Olympics.

[Translation]

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**PARLIAMENTARY REFORM**

## ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It concerns the Prime Minister's speech to the Liberal party in Manitoba. On June 3, 1981, in Winnipeg, he said:

We've announced that a Parliamentary Committee will be established to study and make recommendations on how to make the Senate and House of Commons more effective—

No announcement has been made in the House of Commons that I am aware of. Is it the intention of the government to establish such a committee? Does the government have in mind a parliamentary task force in the sense that we have experienced task forces thus far?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the matter was announced as part of the government's program in the Speech from the Throne and I want to remind the hon. member of that. We intend to carry forth with that idea in the way it was expressed in the Speech from the Throne.

● (1150)

## INTER-PARTY CONSULTATIONS

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for that answer. This will involve the preparation of terms of reference for that task force or group, as well as representation. Could I have the undertaking of the Prime Minister that before terms of reference are placed on the Order Paper there will be an opportunity for consultation, with input from the opposition parties on those terms of reference, the composition, and number of members of Parliament who would be involved in such a task force?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I would not want the hon. member to think that a task force is necessarily the way in which it would be set up, but I think his suggestion about previous consultation is a most excellent one, and I think it would correspond to the wishes of the government to make sure that any reforms of this House or in the other place should at least begin with a decision to consult on the scope of that work and the general orientation. I will make sure the hon. member is consulted as well as the House leader of the NDP about such a committee, either through the House leader on this side or directly by officials who will be working with the minister.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## INCARCERATION OF CANADIANS IN PERU—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General.

As the minister knows, over 30 Canadians are being held prisoners in Peru. Many of them are still waiting for their trial after more than a year. A number of those prisoners have declared that they were interrogated and sometimes beaten up and mistreated by the Peruvian police in the presence of RCMP officers. Could the minister say precisely what is the policy of his department with respect to the role played by the RCMP during such interrogations by foreign police officers? Does the minister also intend to order an inquiry concerning the statements made by, in this specific case, Canadian prisoners in Peru?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, I would say to the hon. member that I do not need an inquiry into this case because I have already questioned the Royal Canadian Mounted Police about this, and I can deny categorically that RCMP agents were present during the incidents described by the hon. member.

[English]

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, I trust the minister will be prepared to release to the House the full details of these inquiries. A number of these same Canadian prisoners who are presently languishing in prison in Peru have stated they were approached by agents of the RCMP in Peru, after their arrest, and urged by them to sign prepared written confessions. Will the minister explain just exactly what the relationship is between the RCMP and local police forces in Bolivia, Chile and Peru, and specifically why the RCMP is apparently involved in attempting to extract written confessions from Canadian prisoners in Peru?

[Translation]

**Mr. Kaplan:** Madam Speaker, again I categorically deny that the RCMP have brought such pressures to bear on Canadians in Latin America. I should like to say to the hon. member, because I believe it is true, that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police co-operate in foreign countries with police officers of other countries to fight against drugs. That is being done mostly in Latin America which, generally speaking, we consider as a major source of the illegal drugs entering Canada.