

Oral Questions

Department that the evaluators must cease collections and cease harassing farmers under that section of the Act?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Madam Speaker, I do not think we can conclude on the basis of a single judgment that all cases covered by Section 31 of the Act are similar to the case involved here. It will be necessary to consider the nature of the case, the scope of the judgment and also whether present policy and practice should be revised, and that is the exercise we shall be conducting in the weeks to come.

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[*English*]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**INVASION OF GRENADA—INFORMATION RECEIVED ON POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY INTERVENTION**

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I would like to go back to the question of Grenada, with the Minister of State for International Trade. Is there any possible or reasonable explanation of why our High Commissioner, having been told by the Prime Minister of Barbados that the only solution as he saw it was military intervention, did not consider that to be of some vital importance and did not recognize the necessity to inform the Government of Canada that this was in the minds of those people in the Caribbean? As a result of that we were unable to move to safeguard our people in Grenada and, more important, we were unable to move to try to intervene and stop the proposed aggression.

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, in answer to the last related question, I can now tell you that the telex from Mr. Noble Power was received Friday evening at approximately 8 p.m. That telex did not portray events as the Hon. Member suggests. If the Hon. Member wants to make a judgment as to what was said in the conversation between Mr. Power and Tom Adams, I would like to tell him that the absolute and final answer as to the accuracy of what Mr. Power reported is the fact that, subsequent to the invasion, Prime Minister Tom Adams has apologised to Canada for the fact that it was not possible to consult, that it was not possible to have told us what was going to happen—

Mr. Stevens: Why?

Mr. Regan: —and if indeed what he had suggested was such that it was going to indicate to Canadians the urgent possibility of military intervention, then Tom Adams would not have found it necessary to have apologised after the fact for the situation in which Canada was not consulted.

Mr. Stevens: Why could he not tell us?

Mr. Regan: Events moved so fast and security was of such paramount importance that it became almost impossible to consult.

GOVERNMENT'S ACTIONS FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Now that we understand that the Government of Canada had in its possession the communique from our High Commissioner indicating that there was the possibility of armed intervention, why did the Government of Canada not take steps right then and there, immediately, to contact our allies—

Mr. Lalonde: Do not be ridiculous.

Mr. Deans: —in order to try to find a way to stop that before it occurred?

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member must remember that the Opposition cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Deans: I can have it the way I am asking.

Mr. Regan: It cannot say on one hand that we were consulted and therefore we should have done something, then, on the other hand, say we were not consulted because we were not trusted.

Mr. Deans: Answer my question.

Mr. Regan: We either were or were not. The Opposition had better get its story together. That is the first thing I want to say.

The next thing I would like to say to the Hon. Member is that the problem is in his question, not in our answers. He continually says that we were told there was a possibility of an invasion. That is not the case at all. What Tom Adams said to Noble Power was that some of the eastern Caribbean states were interested in the possibility of a military intervention. It had not been discussed by them at any meeting. This was just one of the possibilities. Surely the Hon. Member is not going to try seriously to portray to the Canadian people that he believes there was a potential for the eastern Caribbean countries to carry out an invasion by sea or air.

● (1200)

Madam Speaker: The Hon. Member for Yukon on a supplementary.

Mr. Nielsen: Madam Speaker, I have a point of order.

Madam Speaker: I am sorry, I thought the Hon. Member was rising to ask a question. Points of order are not entertained during Question Period and I had intended, because there are a few here who are asking for supplementary questions, I presume on this matter of Grenada—

Mr. Kilgour: Yes.