

Unfortunately, in rendering the judgment the court ordered Operation Dismantle to pay all the costs in the case, which could be quite high. Considering the very great value of that important and key judgment to all Canadians, and the fact that this is a voluntary, non-profit organization, would the Prime Minister consider forgiving the costs of Operation Dismantle in that particular case since it is one that benefits all Canadians?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice is absent, but I will discuss with him the suggestion made by my hon. friend. I am aware of the remarkable significance of the judgment. I take notice of the suggestion made. I will discuss it with the Minister of Justice and report to my hon. friend.

LITIGATION UNDERTAKEN BY VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Prime Minister's response. I would ask him also to consider that when voluntary, non-profit groups like this must go to court against the Government of Canada they are going to court against an opponent which is heavily financed by the taxpayers of Canada and whose lawyers are often on full-time staff. I think that if we are going to get the type of decisions that we need, we should not saddle these groups that are involved in important decision-making cases such as this, with expenses. I would ask the Prime Minister to convey that as well to the Minister of Justice.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we are involved in a policy review of the progressively litigious nature of our society as a result of the Charter, and the extent to which the Government should and should not properly be involved in some of the funding dimensions. I think it is an important matter. I do not have the answer today. I think it is difficult to anticipate where we might be on these issues in four or five years, given the changes to the Charter. The courts' role will be a progressively important one. We live in the kind of a democracy for which we are all thankful. I will take that up as well with my colleague.

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REFUGEES

REPORT ON METHOD OF DETERMINING STATUS

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. There are 20,000 refugee claimants in Canada waiting for the Minister to decide their fate. I understand that Rabbi Plaut's report on the method of determining refugee status, promised by the Liberal Government for December, by the Minister in her Estimates for January, and again by her five weeks ago for "in a few weeks", has in fact been received by the Minister in both English and French, along with new draft legislation proposed by the Department. Will the Minister table the Plaut

Oral Questions

report without delay to permit Members of Parliament and the public to respond with constructive suggestions?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Hon. Member that the report will be made public very shortly. I would welcome his response to it and that of other Members of Parliament.

Mr. Heap: Mr. Speaker, "very shortly" sounds like "in a few days" which I heard from the Minister on March 27, nearly two months ago.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, public debate on Canada's internal treatment of refugees has been stifled for several years by a chain of delayed reports. Is it now the intention of the Minister to delay the Rabbi Plaut report until nearly the end of this session so that she can ram legislation through Parliament without effective public debate, claiming that she has to hurry us up to help the refugees?

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): No, Mr. Speaker, it is not. However, I understand that the Hon. Member always looks on the dark side of things. We want to ensure that those people who are in the refugee determination process are given justice and compassion. That will be the way in which we respond to the Plaut report. I trust the Hon. Member will do the same.

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● (1150)

[Translation]

CANADA POST CORPORATION

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION RESULTING FROM PARCEL WEIGHT CHANGES

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Canada Post. The reform undertaken by Canada Post management concerning the weight of parcels, among others things, is outright discrimination against some regional newspapers such as the *Courrier du Sud* in my constituency which is faced with a \$24,000 annual increase since all subscribers receive their paper through the mail. I should like to ask the Minister whether he intends to bring pressure to bear on Canada Post management so as to make an exception in the case of regional newspapers which provide information because, should that newspaper cease publication, for instance, Canada Post would lose \$150,000 a year.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

An Hon. Member: Do not bother to get up unless you have a question to ask.