

PUBLIC WORKS

BRIBERY ALLEGATION—RCMP INVESTIGATION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works and concerns the allegations of Mr. Glen Kealey of the MICOT office tower project in Hull. Yesterday in the House the Minister said that Mr. Kealey had been speaking to the RCMP and that the matter was under investigation.

I spoke to both the RCMP and Mr. Kealey who will be giving a statement to the RCMP only next week which may then result in an investigation. Can the Minister explain the contradiction between his answer and the facts? Who is investigating? It is not the RCMP. Is it an internal investigation of Public Works, or is it simply the investigation by Mr. Jarvis of the Conservative Party referred to in today's newspapers?

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member can see, the Minister of Public Works is not in the House. He is in Montreal on government business.

I would like to repeat what the Minister said yesterday and what is my understanding today which is that, whether Mr. Kealey has spoken to the RCMP or not, the RCMP in fact is investigating the situation, and as a result it would be inappropriate to make any further statements in this regard.

[Translation]

MICOT PROJECT—PROMOTER KEALEY—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, in his reply yesterday, the Minister also tried to discredit Mr. Kealey's testimony, saying he had been terminated as promoter of the MICOT project. Why did the Minister forget to tell the House yesterday that Mr. Kealey was a member in good standing of the Conservative Party, a member of the Conservative Party's executive in the riding of Hull-Aylmer, a member of the 500 Club, a party organizer and owner of one-third of the shares in the MICOT project . . .

Mr. Malépart: A friend of Brian!

Mr. Boudria: . . . a project worth \$157 million. Was it just an oversight?

[English]

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, neither the Minister of Public Works, myself, nor anyone on this side of the House is trying to cover up anything, as opposed to what the previous administration used to do in these instances. The main reason the Minister did not make any references in that regard yesterday is because he is respecting the review by the RCMP that is taking place at this time. I hope the Hon. Member would do likewise.

Oral Questions

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

MAGAZINE'S TESTS OF SAMURAI JEEP-TYPE VEHICLE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Tests by the U.S. *Consumer Reports* magazine have determined that the Samurai, a four-wheel-drive jeep-type vehicle made by Suzuki, overturns on dry pavement at speeds of less than 40 miles per hour and it has asked the U.S. Government to order it to be taken off the market.

Since this vehicle is being marketed to young people and has already resulted in eight deaths in the United States because of rollover accidents, will the Minister take steps on behalf of Canadian consumers who are unaware of its defects to have the Suzuki taken off the road, and compensate those persons who have bought these clearly defective vehicles?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I was not aware of that study by the American consumers' union, but I hear the representation of the Hon. Member and I will certainly have it investigated by my officials.

REQUEST THAT VEHICLE BE REMOVED FROM USE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, we have spoken to the Canadian Automobile Association. It has informed us that it wants all drivers of this type of jeep utility vehicle to be warned that the vehicle is inherently unsafe. Despite this risk, consumers are unknowingly buying these Samurais and despite their being the only vehicles rejected by *Consumer Reports* ratings in the past 10 years.

Will the Minister intercede on behalf of these consumers and get the Samurai off the road, and at the same time ask why Transport Canada does not have a stability testing standard for these kinds of vehicles?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my first answer, I hear the representation of the Hon. Member. I could have had a more complete answer for him today if he had given me some notice that he intended to ask this kind of a detailed question. However, I hear his representation and I will refer it to officials for appropriate action.

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[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

QUEBEC'S SHARE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, in Quebec we are going back to the time of Duplessis. As you know, there will be a by-election in Lac-Saint-Jean, and while the Tory candidate makes announcements in Montreal,