

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr. Speaker, I merely want to point out that, as I said last week and as I said again yesterday, Quebec consumers have no reason to be worried about security of oil supplies, anymore than they should be worried about artificial price increases, because we are monitoring the situation very carefully.

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[English]

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

#### ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN MEMBERS

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General and concerns the very serious allegations of sexual harassment and sexism within the RCMP. The Solicitor General has initiated an internal investigation but that simply is not good enough. What is necessary is an independent investigation. Will the Solicitor General not agree that an independent investigation into the serious allegations is necessary in order to avoid the possibility of a whitewash and a coverup?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I suppose I have much more confidence in the integrity of the Commissioner and of the senior members of the RCMP than the Hon. Member does.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Beatty:** I have asked the Commissioner of the RCMP to look into the particular circumstances. One of the difficulties that we have is that an allegation has been made by people who have not identified themselves. We have done a search to see if there were specific grievances filed by female members of the force alleging sexual harassment. We have not been able to locate any. I can certainly give the undertaking that in any instance in which a member of the force comes forward with an allegation of sexual harassment, it will be fully investigated and, if it is found to be substantiated, then action will certainly be taken.

#### WOMAN CONSTABLE'S ALLEGATION

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston):** Mr. Speaker, surely the Solicitor General is not serious. In September of last year he was made aware of a specific case, the case of Nancy Fehr, Constable No. 32359, who said in a report to the Equality Rights Commission—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Is this a preamble? Just the question.

**Mr. Nunziata:** Is he aware of the allegation made by this particular constable in her statement in the report, of which he should have been made aware, which is as follows:

We have to suffer silently the harassment for fear of being totally ostracized from the working peer group.

Why was the Minister not aware of this allegation when it was made?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, what I indicated was that I am not aware of any grievance filed by members of the force. I have asked the Commissioner to investigate the report that I have from the RCMP indicating that they cannot find any official complaint received from any regular member. The other undertaking that I have given is that the Government is quite clear in terms of its opposition to sexual harassment in any form and in any instance—

**Mr. Nunziata:** Prove it.

**Mr. Beatty:** Let the Hon. Member come forward with an allegation by any member of the force. We will ensure that it is fully investigated, and if it is substantiated we will take firm action.

**Mr. Nunziata:** It's right here.

**Mr. Beatty:** However, rather than simply trying to smear the RCMP, the Hon. Member should be acting with some responsibility and should be undertaking to come forward with hard evidence.

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### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

#### CANADA-UNITED STATES BOUNDARY

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since George Shultz has now appointed Edgar Dewinski as his U.S. representative for discussions on the two British Columbia boundaries with the United States and since discussions have now taken place between Ottawa and Victoria on this issue, would the Minister be prepared to table in the House the four major components of the Strait of Juan de Fuca boundary and the Dixon Entrance boundary so the people of Canada can know exactly where the Government stands on this issue, so we do not get sold out like we did in 1903 by Wilfrid Laurier?

● (1440)

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, let me commend the Hon. Member on getting his question out.

I would like to advise him that even now he is a little bit ahead of himself. We are involved in some consultations with the Government of British Columbia to determine whether it would, in fact, be in Canada's interest to respond to the suggestion of the United States Secretary of State that there be preliminary discussions. If there are discussions preliminary to a negotiation, they will be to find out whether Canada's interest would be served by any such negotiation. Only if Canada's interest would be served would we enter into any such negotiation.