

be able to spend periods of study in the U.S. and Mexican post-secondary educational institutions.

This is yet another example of the Liberal government's global and forward looking policies.

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AIR-INDIA DISASTER

Ms. Val Meredith (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, two years ago, while Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister promised that the Liberals "will continue to press the government to create a royal commission to look into the Air-India disaster".

• (1445)

Yesterday while the RCMP was announcing a \$1 million reward for information about the bombing of Air-India, the solicitor general advised that a royal commission will not be held while a criminal investigation is still under way.

My question for the Prime Minister is was his earlier promise to create a royal commission into the bombing of Air-India solely to garner votes?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.): No, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Val Meredith (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, everyone in the House wants to see the murderers brought to justice. Yesterday's announcement of a \$1 million reward is being viewed as a further delaying tactic to avoid a royal commission.

Will the solicitor general give the House his assurance that a royal commission will be called and a deadline for creating this commission, criminal charges or no criminal charges?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the announcement of the reward yesterday was made by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police representing the professional judgment of the mounted police as to the appropriate steps taken to advance the investigation to a stage where hopefully charges could be laid.

I do not think it would be appropriate for me to replace the professional judgment of the RCMP on this matter with my own by setting deadlines. The hon. member should know better than to make such a suggestion if she is serious about bringing the criminals to justice.

[Translation]

Oral Questions

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Québec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

In the coming months, four groups will consider the future of the CBC: the heritage committee, the Juneau committee, the McKinsey firm from the U.S., and the Canadian Conference of the Arts. Even before these studies are completed, the CBC is already cutting staff, in particular at its library in Montreal.

Does the minister not agree that these cuts are premature, since officially he should wait for at least two of these reports before making a decision on the CBC's future, and that a moratorium should therefore be imposed on the proposed cuts?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the CBC's financial situation results from a series of budgets that go back a number of years. It is quite normal for the CBC's president and managers to make adjustments in line with budget needs.

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Québec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, does the minister agree that the alacrity with which the CBC's senior officials are cutting services without knowing what the committees' findings will be suggests that we can expect more drastic cuts in the coming years?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I have full confidence in the CBC president's ability to manage his affairs. What I find surprising is that our friends from the Bloc Québécois do not seem interested in the fate of Radio-Québec, which is being cut to pieces.

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[English]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

Mr. Elwin Hermanson (Kindersley—Lloydminster, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, regarding allegations of illegal dumping by the Canadian Wheat Board we now have confirmation from the RCMP in both Winnipeg and Ottawa that no one from the solicitor general's office ever asked it to review these allegations.

Why did the solicitor general write to the member for Lisgar—Marquette on March 28, 1995, saying the RCMP had been asked to investigate this matter?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I think my hon. friend is misinterpreting my letter.