

in the light of an answer he gave earlier today. He was talking about the law, and he said that under the privacy legislation he could allow people to listen to tapes only when they were involved in some criminal or other investigation. In the light of the fact that he allowed the Minister of Labour to listen to the tapes, is he suggesting that the Minister of Labour is involved in any such activities?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): No, I am not, and the hon. member misunderstood what I said earlier.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ADVICE OF FORCE CONCERNING ADMITTANCE OF MR. GRESKO TO COUNTRY—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): A question for the Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Last week, the Prime Minister stated in this House that he always takes the advice of the RCMP. Assuming that statement to be government policy, and in the light of the fact that the RCMP advised the government some time ago not to allow Soviet KGB agent Alexander Gresko to enter this country, notwithstanding which he was ultimately allowed in on numerous occasions, will the Prime Minister clarify the obvious inconsistencies in government statements with regard to RCMP recommendations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The question is somewhat involved. The RCMP does not make recommendations, for example, as to who I should or should not receive in my office, nor does it recommend to me that I should, or should not, issue visas to certain people. These are not matters which are referred to the Prime Minister. What I did say in my answer in the House was that both the Department of External Affairs and the RCMP were aware of the alleged identity of the gentleman in question, and that both departments took their responsibilities. The question was not directed to me but, as I believe was stated by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, or some other minister in his absence, the role of the police is to give advice on such matters. The role of a department, including my own, is to listen to the police. Surely, the hon. member must recognize that each department has to make its own decision on the basis of its own judgment and policies, and that after listening to the police we must all make our decisions as to what we should do then.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO FURTHER VISAS ISSUED TO MR. GRESKO

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): I would direct my supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Since this House will probably not be sitting in the early part of January when meetings of the Olympic Games organizers will be taking place in

Oral Questions

Montreal to discuss, among other things, security measures to be taken during the games in 1976, can the minister assure us today that no further visas will be granted to any KGB agents, particularly to Gresko, who is planning to visit Canada again, in the light of espionage activity and in accordance with RCMP recommendations that he be excluded?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I cannot give any undertaking today with regard to the manner in which a visa application would be dealt with. The question is hypothetical. No approach has been made, to my knowledge, with regard to a visa application in January. If an application is made it will be dealt with at that time.

* * *

FINANCE

DEFINITION OF FAIR MARKET VALUE AS RELATED TO NATURAL GAS—ALLEGED COMMITMENT TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): May I address a question to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources? It arises from a request made by the government of British Columbia to clarify the definition of fair market value in budget ways and means motion No. 9. Since the companies exploring for natural gas have announced that they will end all activity in the province unless a response is forthcoming, would the Prime Minister advise us whether he is in a position to clarify this question as to the fair market value of natural gas in British Columbia, and, if so, whether this information has been communicated to the government of British Columbia?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I must advise the hon. member that this matter comes under the jurisdiction of the Department of Finance. I know the minister has been giving consideration to it in consultation with his colleagues, but I cannot say at the moment whether any advice has been sent to the province.

Mr. Leggatt: The Premier of British Columbia says he has obtained a commitment or an assurance from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources that the fair market value would be determined by the amount presently being paid for natural gas. If this is the commitment, would the Prime Minister tell us whether it has been taken into consideration in resolving this issue between the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Energy?

Mr. Trudeau: If the premier is correct in saying that this commitment has been made, I am sure it is part of the consideration being given by the two ministers.