

advertising campaign which clearly is centred on the importance of conserving energy and substituting other forms of energy for oil. Also it informs the public that Canada is a net exporter of energy. Contrary to what some of my friends on the other side try to make people believe, we have a surplus of energy in this country, apart from a shortage of oil. Canada has the ability to become completely self-sufficient and independent in energy in the next decade if we can get support for the policies we are putting forward.

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

\* \* \*

### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

#### DELAY IN COMPLETION OF McDONALD COMMISSION REPORT

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Over the past several months the Solicitor General has stated on a number of occasions that the long delayed report of the McDonald commission would be finally completed by the end of this past summer. It is now mid-October and the commissioners stated just yesterday that they do not intend to be bound by any timetable, and, of course, their report is still not complete.

In view of the inexcusable failure of the Liberal government to commence prosecutions where there has been evidence of RCMP law breaking or to initiate any disciplinary action whatsoever in these circumstances, and in view of the lengthy delay in the report of the McDonald commission, what action does the Solicitor General intend to take to ensure that the rule of law is indeed upheld in this country?

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General):** Madam Speaker, I remind the hon. member that his party as much as others supported the establishment of this royal commission which, as he noted, is independent. It is doing its work. Now he wants to have both sides of it. The government decided to wait for the report of the commission before taking the kind of action that the hon. member has demanded. No one is more anxious than I to have the report of the McDonald commission. It will affect my ministry and give advice for reorganization that I would like to have. However, the commission is independent. Its terms of reference, which the hon. member's party supported, provide that it can report when it is ready to report. I have no control over that.

● (1440)

**Mr. Robinson (Burnaby):** Of course, Madam Speaker, it was over three years ago that this commission was established and we supported its establishment, but we did not support the terms of reference of the commission.

My supplementary question is again addressed to the Solicitor General. On May 8 of this year the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources stated in response to a question from me regarding the McDonald commission: "Mr. Justice McDonald would prefer any action

in terms of laying of charges to await his report". I have here a letter signed by Mr. Justice McDonald in which he states as follows:

I am not aware that I have ever indicated that I would prefer the laying of charges to await the report of the commission of inquiry of which I am chairman.

He goes on to ask the government to correct this inaccuracy which was presented to the people of Canada through Parliament. In view of this inaccuracy which was stated in this House on May 8 last, will the Solicitor General now take this opportunity to correct the erroneous statement made on his behalf; and will he also take this opportunity to say that he will no longer hide behind the delay of the report of the McDonald commission but, as I way, will uphold the rule of law for all Canadians in this country?

**Mr. Kaplan:** Madam Speaker, I do not believe I have seen the letter the hon. member referred to and I would like to see it before commenting on it. The observation that was made about Mr. Justice McDonald's opinion was based on a statement that His Lordship made during hearings of the commission, copies of which were made public. I will take another look at it and perhaps answer a question about that in the light of the letter the hon. member is bringing to my attention now.

\* \* \*

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF FOREIGN MINISTER FOR SINGAPORE

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please. I should like to draw to the attention of hon. members of this House the presence in our gallery of the foreign minister for Singapore, the Hon. Supiah Dhanabalan.

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

\* \* \*

### AIRPORTS

#### MOUNT HOPE, HAMILTON—INQUIRY WHETHER STEPS BEING TAKEN TO ENLARGE FACILITY

**Madam Speaker:** I recognize the hon. member for Hamilton West.

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

**Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Hamilton West):** Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I should like to direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. What steps, if any, are being taken to implement the promise made to the Hamilton-Wentworth region to upgrade its airport by enlarging it?

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

**Mr. Robert Bockstael (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, we are still committed to