

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Madam Speaker, I have already indicated to the hon. member that the drilling industry itself had predicted last year a 30 per cent decline in its activities in Canada. It is not at all surprising if similar activities have increased in the United States: that country is faced with a shortage of oil and natural gas, while Canada on the contrary has a surplus of natural gas. That there should be a very firm demand for derricks in that country is not surprising either.

As to the Canadian energy policy, the hon. member is perfectly aware that it is based on three fundamental principles: first, that Canadians should have greater access to that industry, second, that they should seek energy self-sufficiency as far as the oil supply is concerned through the development of oil sands and Canada lands reserves, and third, that they should set up an energy structure to ensure that they are not subjected to the kind of prices the Progressive Conservative Party wanted to foist upon them while it was in power. We have every intention of pursuing this policy.

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[English]

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

QUERY RESPECTING INCREASE IN PAY

Hon. George Hees (Northumberland): Madam Speaker, I would like to address my question to the Minister of National Defence. Is it the intention of the government to increase the pay of the Canadian Armed Forces on April 1 and, if so, would he advise the House what percentage of increase on average will be awarded?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, because of the past military service of the hon. gentleman from Northumberland, I understand his interest in this question. He probably remembers the time when he was in the army and was paid a couple of dollars a day. But I remember—

An hon. Member: One dollar a day.

Mr. Lamontagne: The pay increase of the Armed Forces is under revision at the moment, but whatever it will be—the percentage by which we will raise it, or whatever we decide—we will take the special environment and special capability and competence of our Armed Forces into consideration.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Oral Questions

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

KEABLE COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS—GOVERNMENT POSITION RESPECTING RCMP

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. The Keable commission recently released its report in Quebec. Several important recommendations of the commission were directed to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, namely, one recommending that it prosecute the federal officers responsible for six illegal acts. However, the main recommendation dealt with the infiltration of supposedly subversive groups and insisted that officers or individuals acting as infiltrators receive prior authorization to do so by a judge's warrant. Has the government any intention of implementing that important recommendation of the Keable commission? What disciplinary measures does the government intend to take against the RCMP officers involved in the illegal acts described by the Commission?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I did indeed take note of the recommendations of the Keable commission but, as everyone knows, and especially the hon. member, the McDonald commission is still sitting; we are awaiting the results of that inquiry and the last report of the commission, which I have yet to receive, before reaching a decision in the matter. Nevertheless, as the hon. member also knows, recommendations were made not only with regard to the RCMP but also concerning other police forces in Quebec, and such recommendations were made to the attorney general of that province. The latter will assume his responsibilities when he sees fit to do so.

• (1500)

[English]

RCMP MAIL OPENING REPORT

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, many Canadians are wondering when the Prime Minister's friends in the Privy Council office will finish their extensive editing of the McDonald commission report. One of the areas being studied by the McDonald commission is the question of RCMP power to open first-class mail. In view of the fact that both the Solicitor General and his Conservative predecessor as solicitor general have been quick to endorse the recommendations of the Marin commission to permit the RCMP to open the mail of Canadians with judicial rubber stamping, has the Solicitor General yet received the long-promised, revised report from the RCMP on the subject of mail opening and, if not, why is the minister rushing in so quickly to support this totally unwarranted intrusion into the private correspondence of Canadians?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I certainly reject the contemptuous statement made by my friend about the judiciary in suggesting that the judicial process would amount simply to rubber stamping—