

Oral Questions

I ask the minister to remove the anxiety these recent rumours have caused to that community by stating clearly that these latest rumours bear no relationship to the plans this government has for CFB Shearwater.

Mr. Fred Mifflin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for Dartmouth for his question.

As announced in the 1994 budget, the operation at Canadian Forces Base Shearwater has been integrated with Canadian Forces Base Halifax across the harbour. Certain parts of the operation, strictly air, are being moved to Canadian Forces Base Greenwood.

Savings have been effected essentially by reducing the air operation at Shearwater from a full airport operation, as the hon. member knows, to a heliport operation. This is a very viable operation as it turns out and there are no plans to move it.

In summary, I am advised there are no plans to close the Shearwater site at this time.

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IPPERWASH

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the solicitor general.

• (1450)

Last night the radical native squatters burned down another building at Camp Ipperwash to continue their reign of terror against the people of Bosanquet. The police and town fire department refused to attend because previous threats of violence were made against them.

For the last two years the town council of Bosanquet has been demanding that the federal government do something to restore law and order. Why is the minister not responding to the requests of the town council? Why does he continue to cater to thugs who thumb their noses at the laws of this country?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, there are established procedures for the federal government to provide assistance to local law enforcement authorities.

It is very simple. If Ontario feels it cannot handle the situation and asks the federal government for assistance, it will give a prompt and effective response to the request. The road of action is very clear. We are not catering to thugs. As I said, if Ontario wants federal government assistance then the means of making that request are very much in place.

Mr. Art Hanger (Calgary Northeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I am sick to death of hearing about jurisdiction from the minister. Furthermore, I am saddened by the fact that this minister does not have the guts to protect Canadians—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

The Speaker: My colleagues, many times we are carried away on the spur of the moment and sometimes we use terms that could in other circumstances be judged to be unparliamentary.

I ask the hon. member to please refrain from that type of language and I ask him to please put his question.

Mr. Hanger: Will the solicitor general order the RCMP into the area to assist the OPP in putting an end to this rebellion or else will he go to Bosanquet and explain to the people why he will not act?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I said very clearly that I and the federal government are ready to act. All that is required is for the town council to go to the Ontario government and if the Ontario government says it cannot handle the matter, then we are ready to step in. If my hon. friend does not realize that simple fact, then he is not doing his job.

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[Translation]

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Mr. Michel Bellehumeur (Berthier—Montcalm, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

Two days ago in this House, the Prime Minister stated, and I quote: "Information can be sought under the Access to Information Act. Any citizen can request information from government departments".

After inviting the official opposition to use the Access to Information Act, how does the Prime Minister explain the fact that, in the past seven months, the Privy Council has systematically turned down every single request submitted by the official opposition under the Access to Information Act?

Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Privy Council receives requests, as provided for in the act. Some documents cannot be released under the act, under the regulations. This act was passed by Parliament. Internal communications between ministers, in any government, are not made available to people from outside. That is normal. The Privy Council is, however, instructed to release what must be released under the act.