

providing a domestic trade dispute settling mechanism in Canada like we have in the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement?

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the negotiations are ongoing as we speak. Indeed one of the primary aims of the Minister of Industry is to have a speedy dispute resolution mechanism.

I guess the difference between the approach that the leader of the Reform Party seems to be advocating and the approach that we are seeking is that we would like to get consensus to work with the provinces, not against them.

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[Translation]

CRTC

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the CRTC made a decision regarding the French-language all-news channel. This new service was awarded to Radio-Canada. However, the access of francophones outside Quebec to this new service will be left to the discretion of cable operators.

My question is for the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Does he not consider quite inequitable the CRTC's decision, which does not give Canada's francophone and Acadian communities guaranteed access to the French-language all-news channel, when they have been financially supporting the English-language equivalent, Newsworld, for several years through their subscriptions?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): Mr. Speaker, I took note of the CRTC's decisions and I understand the disappointment felt by the francophone and Acadian communities. I should point out, however, that there is an appeal procedure and that this procedure involves the Government of Canada since the appeal is filed with the government.

• (1430)

I myself will be involved in the appeal and I cannot be both a judge and a party at the same time. That is why I should not make any more comments.

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, I would still like to get a very clear answer from the Minister of Canadian Heritage.

Does this mean that the Minister of Canadian Heritage intends to personally ask the Cabinet to review the CRTC's decision? Is this what his somewhat diplomatic language means?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for referring to my former life.

I simply tried to explain the procedure that must be followed. The initiative to appeal must come from the communities concerned and not the government. As I explained, since the

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government rules on the appeal, it cannot be both judge and party at the outset.

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[English]

DANGEROUS OFFENDERS

Ms. Val Meredith (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General.

On Sunday, Burnaby RCMP officers found themselves in the middle of a shootout with David Barlow. Fortunately no one was killed in this incident. However, David Barlow is responsible for the killing of two other persons.

In 1972 he was convicted for murdering a Florida police officer and sentenced to death, which was later commuted to life. In 1980, Barlow was returned to Canada where he was convicted of manslaughter for a killing in New Brunswick in 1967.

Will the minister explain to the people of Canada how an individual like Barlow can be considered a low risk and put back on our streets?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I find this a troubling situation. I have asked for a full review and a full report on how this case was handled. When I get the report on this troubling situation, I will be happy to share the information with my hon. friend.

Ms. Val Meredith (Surrey—White Rock—South Langley): Mr. Speaker, at the current rate of holding national inquiries into problems with the justice system, the minister will have more success in putting Canadians to work than the infrastructure program.

Nevertheless, in response to the Barlow shooting incident British Columbia Premier Mike Harcourt has stated that Canada's justice system must have a zero tolerance for dangerous offenders.

Is the minister equally prepared to call for zero tolerance of dangerous offenders like Barlow?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, there is currently a federal-provincial task force on high risk offenders which is expected to report to ministers in July. It is working on measures to deal with high risk offenders. We are anxiously awaiting the report so that we can take further action to deal with this type of difficult situation.

In the meantime, it is open to the premier of British Columbia to ask his crown attorneys to take more concrete action at the beginning to ask people to be declared dangerous offenders at the time they are first convicted.