

Oral Questions

referred to the Supreme Court of Canada, while it is before the Newfoundland Court of Appeal. Why have they not responded to the request of the Newfoundland government to sit down and negotiate the reasonable proposition which was put to the Government of Canada on January 25 and which, incidentally, was supported by almost 62 per cent of the people of Newfoundland who voted in the last provincial election?

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the hon. member knows that it is possible to secure and work out arrangements between the federal government and the provinces. I remind the hon. member, who is normally a reasonable person, that the Government of Canada has succeeded in working out arrangements or agreements with three western producing provinces, and that we were able to work out an agreement on the offshore, after intensive negotiations, with the province of Nova Scotia. I believe that what has been possible with four other provinces is possible and can be attained, with good faith on both sides, with the province of Newfoundland as well.

TIMING OF CABINET DECISION

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, could the Acting Prime Minister tell the House of Commons when cabinet took the decision to refer the offshore question to the Supreme Court of Canada?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): No, Madam Speaker, I do not have that information. I do know that the order in council was signed this morning, but I have no other information which I can give. The Prime Minister will be in the House later, and the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition may want to follow up that question, but I have no further information on the point.

TIMING OF PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL IN CHAMBER

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, just for the purposes of clarification, will the Prime Minister be in the House before the end of question period?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister is meeting with the Prime Minister of Australia, and I expect him to be in the House before three o'clock.

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NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

ALLEGATIONS OF CIA PAYMENTS TO CANADIAN ELECTION CANDIDATES

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister I should like to direct my

question to the Solicitor General. In 1976 the Prime Minister and British Columbia Senator Ray Perrault met with one John Meier of British Columbia, a former Howard Hughes associate. At that time Mr. Meier provided them both with extensive documents and tapes concerning allegations of CIA penetration of Canadian security services and funding through CIA agents of specific election campaigns and candidates in Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan between 1970 and 1976. Will the Solicitor General confirm that, as a result of these serious allegations, the Prime Minister ordered a secret investigation into the allegations and the charges by Mr. Meier and that there was in fact an inquiry conducted by a lawyer named Pierre Genest? Will the Solicitor General now make public the results of that secret inquiry?

● (1440)

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I have no information on that subject at all. I hope to be able to look into it and comment on it shortly.

Mr. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I gave the minister notice of this question yesterday. Of course, if these allegations can be confirmed, they represent a massive violation of Canadian sovereignty by American CIA agents.

REQUEST THAT COMMITTEE STUDY ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN CANADIAN ELECTIONS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, in light of the importance of the issues raised by Meier's petition, a petition which I intend to table in the House at the conclusion of question period, and since these issues were also recently raised in the Quebec trial of RCMP Officer Vermette, will the minister now give the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs a reference to study the question of CIA involvement in Canada, to hear witnesses, including Meier, and determine whether indeed the Canadian security service has been infiltrated by the CIA and whether, most important, the CIA attempted to influence democratic elections in Canada just as they did in Chile in 1973?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, the hon. member did not give me notice that he would be asking that question today.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

FISHING RIGHTS OF MICMAC INDIAN BAND

Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of