

*Oral Questions*

• (1455)

During those 29 years, the council has conducted educational campaigns in Canada. If there is a problem now, I ask the member to provide me with the facts. I will then conduct a review of that charity, and any other charity, if there are reasons to suspect wrongful conduct. If such review is conclusive, the charity will lose the right to deliver tax receipts. However, I need some specific information and details from the member.

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*[English]***SOMALIA INQUIRY**

**Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence.

Counsel from the justice department on Monday circulated a letter which sends a message of intimidation to all witnesses and potential witnesses of the Somalia inquiry. Justice department rules and Treasury Board regulations circumvent the openness of the Somalia inquiry and the protection of those giving evidence. Serving officers fear for their careers if they have to come forward.

Will the minister take some action to put a halt to this form of intimidation?

**Hon. David M. Collette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, this is a matter under the purview of my colleague, the Minister of Justice, who was just called from the Chamber.

However, the letter to which the hon. member referred, written by a Department of Justice official, reflects the long-standing practice of professional conduct with respect to lawyers in that they do not deal with other people's clients without counsel's being informed. That is a basic principle which the Minister of Justice will address.

**Mr. Jim Hart (Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, minutes ago Justice Létourneau called this a matter of real concern.

The minister in March said in the House: "There would be no impediment to anyone coming forward with evidence". Monday's intimidating justice letter is a serious impediment.

What will the minister do to salvage the inquiry?

**Hon. David M. Collette (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we do not have to salvage the inquiry. The inquiry is doing extremely

well under the leadership of three very prominent commissioners.

I am informed by the Minister of Justice that his officials have been discussing this matter with all concerned, including the commission, and perhaps more will be said on this tomorrow when my colleague returns to the House.

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*[Translation]***QUEBEC REFERENDUM**

**Mr. Benoît Serré (Timiskaming—French River, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of International Trade.

Can the minister explain to this House why the members of the Canadian Exporters Association, through their president, Mark Drake, have expressed such concern about the possible consequences a victory for the yes side might have on their future?

*[English]*

**Mr. Jesse Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, we are not only pleased but proud to announce that Canada's 1995 exports are 20.3 per cent higher than the same period last year.

Our trade surplus with the United States is nearly \$5.4 billion higher than for the same period last year. To date our trade surplus with the world is more than \$7.1 billion from 1994. This is testimony to the dynamic nature of the business women and men working together across the country.

Canada's membership in OPEC, the World Trade Organization and NAFTA places it in a position to do business in the international markets, unlike individual provinces.

This is testimony that on Monday if we want this prosperity to continue through trade, if we want jobs to increase through exports, we will vote no.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona, NDP):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Human Resources Development concerning the role a company called Jobs Incorporated Canada of Campbellton, New Brunswick seems to be playing in the Canada employment department. I am referring to the fact that this company advertised at the CEC office in Winnipeg for a position that would have had the successful applicant greeting clients and explaining programs at the Canada employment office in Selkirk, Manitoba.