

Oral Questions

explain why the RCMP commercial crime division is investigating this matter, and provide the House with any information that he may have regarding the alleged irregularities in the bidding process for this extremely important contract?

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, a couple of months ago one of the bidders in this very complex contract bid process, that is open and up front, raised some concerns. As a result, the Government of Canada initiated two independent but internal studies, both of which proved to show no wrong-doing.

The Hon. Member knows as well that a couple of weeks ago I confirmed that there indeed was an RCMP investigation into this matter. I want to report to the House that the Commissioner of the RCMP concluded in a letter dated July 22 that: "The investigation determined that the complaints received were totally unfounded. No evidence of any wrong-doing surfaced throughout the investigation". As a result, we are going to continue with our evaluation and proceed according to plan.

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APARTHEID**TENNIS TOURNAMENT—PROPOSED PARTICIPATION BY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS**

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Yesterday I asked a question about the loophole which has been opened by the Conservative Government in Canada's policy on sports competitors from South Africa. I challenged the Government to stop trying a weak behind the scenes manoeuvre, and to act directly to exclude the two South African athletes who are intending to play in the Player's Tennis Tournament taking place next month in my riding.

● (1500)

Next week the Secretary of State for External Affairs will be in Toronto hosting a Commonwealth conference on South Africa. Will he now, in preparation for that meeting, accept the position of the Official Opposition, cut off diplomatic relations with South Africa, and close the Mulroney loophole in the Gleneagles Agreement so that these two athletes cannot perform?

Mr. McDermid: What a sleazebag!

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, not to emphasize it too much, it is simply false—if the rules of the House of Commons allowed me, I would use another phrase—it is simply false to suggest this gap was created by this Government. In fact, anyone who wants to compare the actions of the Government in which the Hon. Member was a Minister with the actions of this Government—

Ms. Copps: You initiated the sports policy in 1985.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): —with regard to fighting apartheid will know that the Government of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has not only led this country but has led the world in fighting apartheid, and we intend to continue to do that.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): With regard to the substance of the question there is a gap. We intend to close it.

Ms. Copps: That you opened in 1985.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): I expect to have it closed before the weekend.

[Translation]

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): I am delighted with the Minister's announcement, and I am waiting for further developments. My supplementary for the Minister is this: Could he explain to the House and to the people of this country why Canada continues to give credibility to South Africa, to a racist government, by allowing it to maintain diplomatic relations with Canada?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will repeat in French what I said before, namely that the Liberal Party's position on South Africa, when it was in power, was to accept apartheid. The position of the Progressive Conservative Government was and is to fight energetically against apartheid.

As far as diplomatic relations with South Africa are concerned this is an issue that has been discussed at length here in the House. The Canadian Government's position is clear. The Canadian Government's position is respected by the Blacks in Southern Africa as well as by individuals who are truly concerned about fighting apartheid. It may be that for partisan purposes, the Liberal Party would like to change the position it took as a Government . . . To us, it is a matter of principle. The Canadian Government is showing strong leadership in the fight against apartheid.

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[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**FRASER VALLEY—EMISSIONS FROM BURRARD THERMAL GENERATING PLANT**

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Recent research and air monitoring indicate that a very serious ozone pollution problem exists in the summertime and that the possible operation of two of the six generating