

Privilege—Mr. Chrétien

relation to the salaries of other Canadians. Therefore, I do not think that members of the House or the Canadian population ought to be alarmed about reaction from some members of the force, or from some journalists or members of Parliament.

CONTINGENCY PLANS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Solicitor General. I just remind him that there was a one-hour walkout in Montreal yesterday, that there are widespread reports of so-called "blue flu", and that RCMP officers from one end of the country to another are shutting off their radios. What steps and contingency plans does the minister have in place to guarantee and assure Canadians, such as those living in Halifax, which have been ravaged and rampaged by idiots over the last three or four days because of a police strike, that in fact emergency police services will be available?

Can the minister categorically assure the Prime Minister that when representatives of the summit nations will be here in July, the level of police and security required for such a visit will be in place?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, the pay package which the RCMP received includes a 12.2 per cent increase, and other benefits which amount to an additional few percentage points on top of the 12.2 per cent. Therefore I think it was a good pay increase in that sense, although it was not everything the RCMP wanted. However, I do not think consideration of withholding services is justified. The RCMP have always been counted on by the Canadian people and, in my opinion, they still can be.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. CHRÉTIEN—URANIUM CARTEL INQUIRY REPORT—
REMARKS BY MR. CLARK

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. Earlier in the question period the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) said that the report on the uranium cartel had been referred to the Minister of Justice (Mr. Chrétien), by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) in order to hide it. I think my privileges have been affected very seriously. When the director of the combines investigation branch concludes that there might be a prosecution involved, under Section 15 of the Combines Investigation Act he must refer the file to the Attorney General of Canada whose decision it is whether or not a prosecution should ensue.

I would like to say to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) that I intend to carry out my responsibility. This file was not referred to me by the minister but by the director. In addition, in every case it is important that the

law of the land is respected and not played with by the opposition—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: I intend to look into the file to decide whether or not prosecution should ensue.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Chrétien: It is very important for the public to understand that it is the duty of the Attorney General of Canada to decide those things.

Mr. Kilgour: Why do you not make it public?

Mr. Chrétien: A few months ago there was an investigation, a report—

Madam Speaker: Order, please.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I think it is obvious to members that the hon. minister is continuing a debate which began in Question Period.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: The minister does not have a question of privilege. There is a divergence of opinion about how these matters ought to have been concluded. If the hon. member wants to make further points, he could do so at times when that is allowed in the House.

Mr. Crosbie: Outside. Go out in the hall.

Madam Speaker: Certainly the minister does not have a question of privilege.

Mr. Chrétien: Madam Speaker—

Madam Speaker: Presenting Reports.

Mr. Chrétien: Madam Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Sit down.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. I would ask the hon. minister to co-operate with the Chair. I have ruled that he does not have a question of privilege. He has made a point but it does not constitute a question of privilege, and I am afraid I cannot hear him any longer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: Big Daddy is coming. What is your question of privilege?

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The Right Hon. Prime Minister.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. The minister was at the