

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member seeks all this information, I assume that the hon. member really does want the information, although it does come as a surprise that in seeking this information he walked out of committee.

**Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

On May 15, 1991 at page 99 of *Hansard* she stated, and I quote:

A report was made. It is as complete as it can be and it tells people what they need to know.

Today she released a chronology of events which is 26 pages long. That is contrasted with the five pages of the first report. There are many additions and, more important, contradictions.

In version B on page 11, we are told that on March 8, immigration officials drafted a memorandum about the case for her attention. There is absolutely no mention whatsoever about that memorandum in version A. Why did the minister tell this House that version A was "as complete as it can be" when that was simply not accurate?

**Hon. Barbara McDougall (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am going to have all of these documents in front of me before the committee. I will be very happy to answer all these questions, as I was this morning when, let the record show, this member walked out too.

**Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West):** Mr. Speaker, if this memorandum of March 8 had been brought to the minister's attention in early March, this whole sorry Al-Mashat case could have been nipped in the bud.

Why was its existence suppressed until today? Why the cover-up?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. minister has taken the position, I think, that the matter is going to be considered later on this afternoon. There may well be a lot more questions on the Al-Mashat affair and I think they had better be

carefully directed in such a way that they are clear and that they are appropriate to be answered.

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

The minister has indicated to members of this House and to the national media that he did not become aware of the particular subject matter of Al-Mashat until on or about May 7, 1991, and this has been reported both in the English and French press.

The new report today states, and I quote:

On Tuesday, April 30, the Clerk of the Privy Council sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister, informing him of Mr. Al-Mashat's arrival in Canada. This memorandum, based on proposed replies in House cards prepared for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Employment and Immigration, indicated that the ministers had been briefed to that effect and would respond.

My question to the minister is this: Would the minister indicate to the House why the contradiction?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, my answer will be the same as that given by my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs. At 3.30 p.m., the committee that was asked to consider this matter will be delighted to answer their questions in the presence of both ministers.

[*English*]

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is to the same minister.

Will the minister not admit that the statement of March 14, 1991, is seriously flawed, and that the statement released today, made public here in Ottawa, confirms beyond a reasonable doubt that the minister was seized of the knowledge on or before April 30, 1991.

I ask the minister, will he not now avail himself of the opportunity and explain the obvious contradictions of facts.

**Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** My answer is no to the first two questions. As to the third, it will be answered at 3.30.