

*Oral Questions*

to review the matter and come up with the best solutions that we can as a government to integrate our solutions with theirs and find whatever answers we can to this problem.

\* \* \*

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**

**Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni):** Mr. Speaker, given the increasing manifestations of racism that we are beginning to see with increasing rapidity around the country, and given the concern about the delay that has been taking place in the Solicitor General's office with respect to changing uniforms in order to accommodate visible minorities in the police force, will the Solicitor General implement recommendation No. 28 of the Marshall inquiry report which calls for immediate recruitment and immediate hiring of native RCMP officers?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Blais (Solicitor General of Canada and Minister of State (Agriculture)):** Mr. Speaker, we have had a committee for some time now in the RCMP which is busy speeding up the recruitment process for minority groups across Canada. The system is working well. We have been able to attract an increasing number of people from various ethnic groups, including Canadian native groups. I think it all takes time. The important thing is that we have a system that works, and so far, we have every reason to be satisfied about the increasing number of people from various ethnic groups who have joined the RCMP. This should be a source of great satisfaction for everyone.

\* \* \*

[*English*]**JUSTICE**

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Justice and it is also about the Marshall inquiry.

In the answer the minister just gave he made it clear that as far as the federal government was concerned they were going to wait for the province to react to the Marshall report before doing anything. I would like to ask him to reconsider that.

The federal government has a Minister of Justice and this minister is the Minister of Justice. I would like to ask him what steps we can look to the Government of Canada to take in the light of the findings of the Marshall inquiry about the extent to which racism underlies the system of criminal justice in Canada for which he has the major responsibility as Minister of Justice.

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear that I am going to correct the incorrect impression that my hon. friend left. I made it very clear that this government and this minister is going to read the report before we react. We will read it. We will consider it. We will react.

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward, then, to the minister reading the report. I would like to ask him about federal government policies.

Is the minister prepared to recognize the extent to which racism denies fair treatment to members of minority groups? Is he prepared to promote and achieve a workable native justice system? Will he undertake today to review the procedures of the federal agencies which have been criticized by the report? Also, will he in general use the occasion of this sad report to provide some leadership in moving the system of criminal justice of Canada forward?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps we could start with a little history and remind my friend that these problems took place while his party was in power. Let us just start with that.

I would hope that now he will join with this government which has appointed native people and increased our efforts in this area. I would hope that now the Liberal Party will join with us in eliminating this kind of discrimination.

\* \* \*

[*Translation*]**YOUTH**

**Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur):** Mr. Speaker, after turning its back on Canada's elderly, unemployed and low-income families, as well as Atlantic fishermen, the government is now turning its back on our country's students.