

Oral Questions

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, I think the words used would have to be a little more clear. I do not think there was any suggestion that there were devices of that kind.

Mr. Broadbent: He said there were.

Mr. Richardson: I think the commander was describing that the type of work he is engaged in and that his training could be used for a number of purposes, such as for locating resources, sunken ships or aircraft, and that there was also a possibility that it could be used to find devices of the kind described if they were there. He was talking about the possibility of this, not about the fact that they were there or that he had seen them.

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[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

EVIDENCE BEFORE CRIME COMMISSION BY JUDGE LAMER—
REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF INTEGRITY

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice.

Did the Minister of Justice ask his deputy for a complete report on the evidence given by Judge Antonio Lamer before the Inquiry Commission on Organized Crime? In the affirmative, can he reassure the House about the integrity of the new chairman of the Law Reform Commission?

[English]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, as I indicated to the House previously, my predecessor discussed this question with the deputy attorney general. I have asked to be apprised of the report that was given to my predecessor but I have not yet received it. However, may I say that I have no information that would indicate any lack of integrity on the part of the chairman of the Law Reform Commission.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO NEW CHAIRMAN OF LAW REFORM
COMMISSION

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the Solicitor General.

Has the minister been informed about the questionable acquaintances of the chairman of the Law Reform Commission and does he intend to order an inquiry to know whether a man who assumes responsibilities so fraught with consequences intends to advocate in a disguised manner reforms likely to encourage criminality rather than discourage it?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): No, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Broadbent.]

SUPPLY AND SERVICES

LOCKHEED CONTRACT—MAXIMUM AMOUNT PAYABLE BY
GOVERNMENT—POSSIBLE GUARANTEE OF LOAN BY
GOVERNMENT

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. In reply to previous questions the Minister of National Defence has declined to reveal either the rate of interest which Lockheed will pay on the loan from Canadian banks or to say whether the total interest payments would be in excess of \$111 million set aside for such payments by his department. However, on Monday the Minister of Supply and Services told reporters that, whatever terms are negotiated between the banks and Lockheed, the government will pay no more than a maximum which is fixed in the contract. Would the Minister of Supply and Services now tell the House what this maximum fixed figure is, and would he now provide copies of the contract in compliance with his previous commitments?

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, we have negotiated with Lockheed the maximum charges the federal government will assume and they have been incorporated in the contract, which is now in escrow. Of course, if Lockheed can achieve and finalize negotiations with Canadian banks, then the contract will be in force and we will table it in the House. In the arrangement with Lockheed, it is understood that if it can obtain better terms and conditions with Canadian banks the federal government will benefit, but if it cannot, then Lockheed will absorb the additional cost and responsibility.

Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I cannot understand why the minister does not wish to answer the question by giving a figure of what percentage of interest is involved. The government has stated repeatedly it will not guarantee a loan to Lockheed, yet the minister on Monday told reporters that in case of a Lockheed bankruptcy the government would assume the payments made until that point, and that the banks are protected to that extent. If that does not amount to a government guarantee I do not know what does. Therefore, I should like to hear the minister's explanation of why a commitment to repay the banks for money loaned to Lockheed does not amount to a guarantee.

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, there is no more guarantee than the one the federal government would have to face if the federal government were providing the financing through appropriation. That means that if there are any risks for the Canadian banks they have to be settled with Lockheed, not with the federal government. We do not give any guarantee on any loan to Lockheed.