

*Oral Questions*

sidered, and that the Organization of Civil Liberties, which desired to present evidence and argument on behalf of the Bill of Rights in that case, should be denied that right?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I discussed our instructions with Mr. J. J. Robinette, who was acting for the Attorney General of Canada, and made it clear that there were two points with which we would agree with counsel for the applicants, namely that the regulation could not affect the privileges of members of the House in terms of debate here in the House—

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** That is not the question at all.

**Mr. Basford:**—and, secondly, that members had the right to consult counsel as to the legal effect of the regulations. It was also, however, our instruction that the validity of the regulation be upheld, and that the decision of Mr. Justice Robins in the Westinghouse case be argued in front of the more recent case.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. That is an answer that answers nothing.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I have been away for a few days, Mr. Speaker, and I watched the proceedings of this House on television. Across this country there is deep resentment at all the noise that goes on when questions are asked. I ask the minister whether or not, specifically or indirectly, counsel was advised to oppose representations being made by the Organization of Civil Liberties. That was the question I asked, and I asked it because, however difficult it may be for the minister to understand, this is the most damnable order in council ever passed in this country, denying individuals their rights, the minister saying that if members object we will hear what they have to say. I ask him specifically: Did he not realize that this order in council, which was brought about in secrecy and conceived in sin—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The right hon. member has put his question to the minister.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I am not quite through, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The right hon. member has put his question. The Minister of Justice.

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether the right hon. gentleman had finished his question, but as I understand it it is: Were the regulations contrary to the Bill of Rights, and did counsel for the Attorney General so argue? The regulations are not contrary to the Bill of Rights, and counsel for the Attorney General argued that they are not contrary to the Bill of Rights both in the case before the Chief Justice of Ontario and in the case earlier in the spring before Mr. Justice Robins. Obviously, in passage of the regulations the procedures laid down in the Bill of Rights were followed and the regulations

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

were certified by officers of my department or the Privy Council office as being not contrary to the Bill of Rights.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I should like to see the declaration of those officers regarding this order in council, which denies the rights of individuals and endeavours to bring about an agreement contrary to the law, and approved by the cabinet, an agreement which meant that a crime committed has to be covered up and concealed, as it was until subsequently revealed.

**Mr. Basford:** Mr. Speaker, as I made it clear in the House some time ago, the uranium information regulations were certified as being not contrary to the Bill of Rights.

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[Translation]

**ENERGY****POSSIBILITY OF PROGRAM TO CONSERVE NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Does the government intend to carry out a project similar to the one in force for the insulation of Canadian homes to encourage Canadians to save non-renewable energy, a scheme recognizing the use of solar or wind energy to save oil supplies and money?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether I heard the first part of the question about using wind energy to supplement the home insulation program, but if the hon. member is concerned about renewable energy, let me tell him the federal government has taken the decision to increase very considerably our expenditures for renewable energy research and development.

**SUGGESTION HOME INSULATION GRANTS NOT BE SUBJECT TO TAX**

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has the minister considered that it is inadvisable to make the grants payable under the home insulation program taxable in the hands of the recipients, since this makes them less attractive and thereby impedes the program which the government announced some time ago? If he is considering it, would he advise the House whether he has held discussions with the Minister of Finance in order to change the authorization in respect of these grants so this very important program can go ahead on some reasonable basis?

● (1452)

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, we have not considered changing that to a non-taxable grant. Certainly, at the present time we