

*Oral Questions*

the assurance that unfettered federal jurisdiction found in Bill C-41 will be included in its integrity?

**Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to respond to the hon. member's question. No, I do not believe that the Minister of Communications will be tabling a bill next week because he has undertaken to meet with some of his provincial counterparts next week. That is a necessary step prior to the tabling of such a bill. That is a commitment made by the minister at the outset of the telecommunications policy, as the hon. member said yesterday, some five and a half years ago, and he is honouring that commitment of consultation.

Once those consultations are satisfactorily concluded, and that is now in sight, then a bill will be introduced.

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I noticed that the parliamentary secretary assiduously avoided committing to Bill C-41, which is the federal jurisdiction. I find that very regrettable. I sincerely hope that it was just by omission and not commission.

Does the Prime Minister realize the risk to federal jurisdiction that the Minister of Communications has permitted in the new broadcasting bill? Does he realize that Keith Spicer of the CRTC has clearly warned in unequivocal terms that federal authority shall be challenged before the Supreme Court and we could fritter away broadcasting activities if the activities of cable and television stations are allowed to be split as the minister is doing in the new Broadcasting Act? Is the government going to chance the dissipation of this key area of federal jurisdiction as well?

**Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, there is no question of abandoning federal jurisdiction in any of these areas. Bill C-41, to which the hon. member refers, is before this House. The principles contained in Bill C-41 are the lifting of the Crown immunity of the three prairie provinces' telephone companies. Those principles will be enshrined in the new telecommunications bill, but there

will be consultation and discussion beforehand, as I know the hon. member would expect there to be.

With reference to the chairman of the CRTC and his comments on the broadcasting bill, that bill, as the hon. member knows, is before a legislative committee and she has ample opportunity to state her view there.

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**RCMP DRESS CODE**

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the new Solicitor General. He has on his desk a longstanding report from the Commissioner of the RCMP in respect of Sikh turbans, a recommendation that members of the Sikh community who are members of the RCMP be permitted to wear turbans.

He now has the public recommendation of the Prime Minister, his boss, on exactly the same subject. The year-long delay in implementing the recommendation of the Commissioner of the RCMP has seriously exacerbated the racial tensions in this country and has hurt the very distinguished Sikh community in Canada.

Will the Solicitor General now stand in his place and assure this House that the recommendation of the Commissioner and the Prime Minister will be accepted?

**Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of unnecessarily delaying a decision on this particular issue.

As I indicated a few days ago, I am completing my verification of all the facts and points that have been made by the interested parties with respect to this particular issue and I will make a decision very soon.

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**JUSTICE**

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the minister with respect to his responsibilities for the direction of the RCMP, the Correctional Services of Canada and CSIS.

Yesterday the RCMP conceded in Halifax that it had bungled the issue of policing in Nova Scotia. Will the new minister indicate to this House that he intends to