

Oral Questions

take action immediately to ensure that immediate steps are taken, rather than waiting for the full fledged inquiry that is going on?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I will certainly take the Hon. Member's representations and speak with Coast Guard officials in that area to determine the accuracy of those reports. If they are accurate, we will take the proper action.

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INDUSTRY**WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT LIMITED—DELAYS IN DELIVERIES OF PARTS**

Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I understand that the receiver of the White Farm Equipment Company is releasing parts to dealers. However, the parent company in the United States is giving delivery times of several months. It appears that it is holding up delivery of parts until the ownership of the Canadian firm is settled. Has the Minister been advised of this and, if so, what action has he or will he take to get these parts delivered to Canadian dealers immediately?

Hon. Ed Lumley (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, this is the first time I have heard of that situation so I obviously cannot respond positively to the Hon. Member. I will look into the case.

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NATIONAL SECURITY**SOVIET ESPIONAGE IN CANADA**

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. In Sudbury recently the Solicitor General said that "there is a lot of Soviet espionage in Canada and I do not think most Canadians realize it". In order for the Minister to give Canadians and Members of the House a better idea of what he meant, would he state exactly how much Soviet espionage there is in Canada? Has he communicated and explained his views to the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, this gives me the opportunity to comment on a report which attributed to me a certain quantification of the number of Soviet spies in Canada. I want to assure the House that I gave no such precise quantification. I indicated that there obviously is in this country—as Canadians know from the occasional Png-s, the expulsion of Soviet diplomats—a threat to our national security from agents of the Soviet government in this country. Of course the numbers that are png-ed are a

small proportion of the total amount of activity under surveillance in that respect by the Security Service.

REPORT OF MINISTER'S SPEECH

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): The Solicitor General, in his speech in Sudbury to the Canadian Bar Association, said that the KGB's role was continuing to expand. Will the Minister quantify his statement that "there is a lot of Soviet espionage in Canada, and I do not think Canadians realize how much there is"? Just how much is there?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General of Canada): Madam Speaker, I do not feel it is in the public interest to give precise figures about that, neither did my predecessor from the Hon. Member's Party when he was Solicitor General.

I would remind him that if we can move quickly to the establishment of the new Security Intelligence Service, something that I advocate to the House, we would be in a position to have an external review committee which would, for the first time, have the power to overrule, in effect, the Solicitor General and decide that it might be in the public interest to give out that type of concrete information. I am not prepared to do it, but I invite the Hon. Member to support a system in which he would have access to a review of a decision about national security by the Solicitor General.

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PUBLIC WORKS**NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE—RESPONSIBILITY FOR STRUCTURAL DEFECTS**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. It concerns structural problems in the National Arts Centre. Sidewalks are crumbling, and water penetration is being found in the recently renovated mechanical room. As well, there are such bizarre conditions as a faked expansion joint, continuous water leaks from unidentified sources, and drains solidly plugged with concrete. Who, and what, are responsible for these conditions?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I will obviously inquire into the accuracy of the details alleged by the Hon. Member and I will give him an answer.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER LAUNCH INQUIRY

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, these repairs will cost the Canadian taxpayers some \$300,000. Is the Minister prepared to launch an independent inquiry into the structural problems to determine why there has been no quality control and proper inspection of concrete work at the National Arts Centre?