

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

PAYMENT AUTHORIZED TO FORMER INFORMANT

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask the Solicitor General about the \$56,000 payment authorized by Order in Council to be made to Warren Hart, an FBI and RCMP informer. Why was this payment made when the McDonald Commission, as set out in volume 3 at page 497, found that his termination, his severance and departure from the RCMP had been properly handled? Will the Solicitor General tell the House what new facts came to the attention of the Government which justified the making of this additional payment?

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, what we have here is another example of selective readings by the Hon. Member. I refer the Hon. Member to the conclusion of the report at page 500 which states that while in Canada for over four years Mr. Hart "performed laudable service for the people of Canada."

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Kelleher: As a result of that my predecessor ordered an internal independent inquiry to see whether or not he should be reimbursed for loss of services and expenses. This independent inquiry determined that he should be paid the amount of \$56,000. As a result of that recommendation payment was made.

REQUEST FOR TABLING OF LAWYER'S REPORT

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, laudable services are not the issue if a finding was made that his termination was proper. Was it not made because of a promise made by the Minister of National Revenue when he was a back-bencher that he would take care of Warren Hart? Is the Solicitor General prepared to table the lawyer's report referred to in the media as a basis for the making of this payment? Let us see the report.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. James Kelleher (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the report was prepared by a Toronto solicitor, Mr. Letterman. It was the recommendation as a result of a full inquiry by him that this *ex gratia* payment be made. Pursuant to that recommendation, the payment was made.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

PREPARATION OF WHITE PAPER—INFORMATION PROVIDED TO UNITED STATES DEFENCE SECRETARY

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence concerning his comments on the upcoming White Paper. Why has the American

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Defence Secretary been kept "fully involved and informed" about the White Paper when this Parliament has seen nothing concrete and only selected Canadians have been consulted at the invitation of the Minister himself?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Because, Mr. Speaker, contrary to the policy of the NDP, Canada is a full partner in NATO and NORAD and as a consequence has a responsibility to consult its allies.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR SUBMARINES

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, the Minister also said that nothing that the Government is doing would surprise the Americans. Does Mr. Weinberger know that the Government is considering spending billions of dollars on nuclear submarines because, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs told the defence committee just last week: "—in terms of threats to our sovereignty in our North—the large threats come from our friends, the United States"?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the Government will be announcing its policy with regard to our Navy in the White Paper. It is quite clear that there will be somebody's navy in our North. It will be either the American, the Russian, or the Canadian Navy. I would be interested to know from the Hon. Member what the position of the New Democratic Party is.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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AGRICULTURE

PRAIRIE GRAIN PRODUCERS—REQUEST FOR DEFICIENCY PAYMENT

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Last Thursday night Bill Strath, the President of Prairie Pools Incorporated, sent a letter on behalf of 130,000 prairie grain producers to the Prime Minister demanding that the Government make a commitment for assistance for the 1987 grain crop year. In the uncertainty that permeates every western community at this time will the Prime Minister provide a positive response to these 130,000 grain producers? Will he give a commitment that he will provide a deficiency payment to give at least as great a return to the farmers in this new crop year as they are receiving in the current one?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, tomorrow I will be on my way to western Canada. I will be meeting again with farmers and provincial authorities to consult with them in regard to the ways in which, perhaps, we can be of assistance to farmers who are hurting pretty badly as a result of the drop in commodity prices.