

Oral Questions

insisted that the matters we were raising were matters for the Senate.

I want to ask the Minister of Energy about the very superficial inspection which he claims to have done of records of his department. He says there is no paper record showing any involvement of Senator Cogger. I want to ask on top of that whether he has done any checking to see if the senator made any oral representations in the department. Did he check with his predecessor, the present Minister of Communications, to see if representations were made to that minister in connection with it, or did Senator Cogger's close friend, the Prime Minister, or any members of the Prime Minister's Office make representations in connection with these projects?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member by that last reference does not add anything to the legitimacy of the first part of the question. I say that to him as colleagues who have been in this House for a long period of time.

I think it has to be said and should be said to the hon. member. I have gone back to the department again. I have asked whether there was any representation of any form by Senator Cogger in terms of the department in reference to the project in question. I have been advised that the department has no record of any verbal, oral or written representation from the Senator.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, I will have to see the record, but I wonder whether the minister answered that there were no representations from the senator or on behalf of the senator by others from the Prime Minister's Office.

Let me point out that the statement made by Senator Michel Cogger yesterday is a very narrow statement in which he says:

I have in no way intervened with anyone in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

This Hydromega grant project is a very complicated project. Environment Canada and the Department of Transport were also required to approve of this project. I want to ask the main minister responsible for it if he has checked to ascertain whether those departments which provided their approval in an amazingly short period of

time when this project was under active consideration received representations and whether he has investigated the situation in relation to them.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, with reference to any representation made from anyone in the Prime Minister's Office, that has also been checked. The answer to that is an unequivocal no, as I gave with respect to any advice we received in relation to Senator Cogger.

• (1420)

In terms of my predecessor, he has also been asked and the same answer applies there.

With respect to this project being "very quickly approved", it is a complicated project and it was not very quickly approved. If the member goes through the guidelines of application, he will see that on July 10, 1985, the concept proposal was submitted by Hydromega. You then go from July 10, 1985 to February 1988. Yesterday the innuendo was left that money "somehow was found to fund the project". The answer is very clearly there. The project was approved at that time with moneys that were approved by Parliament for this program, effective April 1, 1988.

Additionally, if the member looks at the project he will find that there was another innuendo by the member from Glengarry-Prescott-Russell that this was a large project and all the others were much smaller. Let me read some of the projects: Carleton University—

An Hon. Member: Table it.

Mr. Epp: I would love to table it—Emcon Enterprises \$470; Hamilton Street Railways \$635; Cristy Adams \$343; Newfoundland Light and Power \$436. Let us stay with the facts and not the innuendoes that you are so quick to throw across the House.

[Translation]

Mr. Kaplan: I would like to ask the Prime Minister a question about this matter, because there are several departments involved. Senator Cogger's statements have been contradicted by others. I would like to ask him whether, as he has done in the past, the Prime Minister brought the case to the attention of the RCMP.