

Oral Questions

We also have been working with the industry in ways to help them put in the equipment and improve their technology to allow them to be competitive on a world scale basis. I am sure my colleague noted my response earlier in Question Period that some companies have been quite successful in being able to maintain and build their markets on an international basis.

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AIR INDIA FLIGHT 182

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General regarding the Air India tragedy and the surveillance role of CSIS.

During recent committee questioning, the chairman of the Security Intelligence Review Committee replied that the RCMP continues to insist that a SIRC review would impede the criminal investigation which is still proceeding.

It has been six sad years since flight 182 went down. Why can SIRC not conduct its internal review now? Will he tell the RCMP to back off and let SIRC do its job?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my hon. friend's interest in this matter. He will know that the RCMP has contracted with a deep-sea diving outfit and will be making an effort to recover more of the belongings of those people who died in that particular crash. They will be doing that this summer.

We hope that we will have the same success with that that the government did with the Reyat investigation and subsequent conviction in B.C.

Mr. Derek Lee (Scarborough—Rouge River): Mr. Speaker, no one has yet shown how an internal review by the Security and Intelligence Review Committee would impair the ongoing criminal investigation of the RCMP.

Will not the minister signal to SIRC that it should get on with its job and direct it to conduct a section 54 review under the CSIS Act so that questions regarding SIRC's

or CSIS's surveillance role in this tragedy can be put to bed once and for all.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I reiterate that under no circumstances would I want to in any way impair the efforts of the RCMP and the progress that has been made to date. The RCMP realizes the concern that everybody has that the perpetrators of this crime be brought to justice and I am sure that everybody in the House agrees with that theory.

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CANADIAN DOLLAR

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Finance.

The Canadian dollar continues to climb in relation to the U.S. dollar. There have been many claims that this is because of a secret deal made between Canada and the U.S. as part of the free trade deal.

I was wondering if the minister could tell us today about the true value of the Canadian dollar and if indeed there is any relationship to the free trade agreement.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the exchange rate of the dollar has absolutely nothing to do with the free trade agreement. As the hon. member knows, we have a floating exchange rate. The value of the Canadian dollar is established in the marketplace based upon many factors, i.e. commodity prices, balance of payments, capital movements, inflation, inflationary pressures and interest rates. All of those components are part and parcel of the value of the dollar.

I think one of the reasons that the dollar is enjoying a high value is simply the fact that many foreigners are investing in Canada. It is a clear demonstration of the confidence that is being expressed in the Canadian economy.

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CAPE BRETON ECONOMY

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister.