

driving such a jeep with a gun mounted on it and a trailer on the back of it after only two weeks in a convoy on a public highway, with no co-driver, and when the night before there were some who thought he should be flown home because he was so ill from extensive poison ivy? This is the kind of question yet to be answered by the militia.

Also subsequent to my question in the House, Mr. and Mrs. Krosney have been informed and so have I, that the initial results of the militia inquiry have been found wanting by the senior military authorities who had to review it, and it has been sent back for further and more complete details. Does this mean more delay? Does it mean that what I have applied for under the Access to Information Act is now not there to receive in complete form? If so, I will request that the initial transcript be provided and I will apply for the final one later, when it is ready.

In any event, I will not let up on this incident. The secrecy, the delay and the apparent incompetence of the militia in this matter must be fully scrutinized if tragic accidents like this are to be avoided in the future. There is much in this case that would benefit us all, particularly members of the militia, if the light of day were allowed to shine on this particular event and we could find out what actually went on there. That is exactly what I intend to see happen.

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Hon. Member for the continued interest that he is showing in the problems of the militia and the circumstances of this particular accident. Many of us have sons and daughters who are members of the militia. We are very anxious that the militia in turn give them the protection and the support that they deserve and need.

I wish on behalf of the Minister to express our condolences and sympathy to the family. Certainly any words that are brought forward in this House will not and cannot repay or take the place of the lives that were lost.

● (1825)

I agree that there has been a considerable amount of delay in getting the information that the Hon. Member is seeking. The last question that he put forward to the Minister on

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February 15, 1984 received the response by the Minister who stated that, through the Access to Information Act, appropriate information would be forwarded to him and he in turn could pass it on to members of the family.

The request was received by the Department on February 17 and the prescribed period for the delivery of the answer to the Hon. Member is 30 days. It should be made available to him sometime next week. The only deletions from the document are those which are called for under the Act.

I hasten to indicate that there has been a delay, as the Hon. Member has suggested, and that the delay was the result of the review that had been carried out by the Board of Inquiry. The delay was not a result of the contents of that particular report, but because not enough information was submitted. In the report more complete, thorough and accurate information was requested by a senior officer before a report is approved, and it is approved on behalf of the Chief of the Defence Staff at the National Defence Headquarters.

The inquiry will answer the questions raised regarding the licence given to drivers in the militia. Private Krosney was qualified under the DND 404 driver's licence. Such a licence is given even if a civilian licence is not in the possession of the licensee. He was qualified as far as our Department is concerned as an expert driver and was qualified to drive the vehicle.

In closing, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for raising this matter again. The Minister, as the Hon. Member is no doubt aware, has shown great interest in making sure that the information sought will be made available in the shortest possible time. The Chief of the Defence Staff has directed that this matter be dealt with on a priority basis and that the complete Board of Inquiry information be provided as soon as it has been approved on his behalf.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order, please. The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at eleven o'clock.

At 6.28 p.m., the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.