

Oral Questions

having committed a murder would be allowed back on to the streets prior to their trial?

Mr. Lang: Not unless there was evidence before a judge or an indication that the public interest or the presence of the accused at trial required that to happen. We do not believe, any more with a person charged with murder than with a person charged with any other offence, that we should treat that person as though he were convicted before he is in fact convicted.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

CABLEVISION—SEALING BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF ANTENNAS IN EASTERN CANADA—INQUIRY AS TO DATE OF AGREEMENT WITH PROVINCES

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Communications.

I feel I am not exaggerating when I say that no agreement was reached during the last federal-provincial conference between the provincial and federal governments with regard to television cable systems. In view of the federal government's decision last week to affix seals on the antennas belonging to Entreprises de câblodistribution de l'Est in Quebec, would the minister advise the House whether this is a final decision on the part of the government, and whether this decision will be maintained, although no agreement was reached between the federal and provincial governments with regard to television cable systems.

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member quoted the wrong federal-provincial conference. If he had referred to the 1973 federal-provincial conference, he would have noted that I had then warned the provinces that to negotiate with the provincial representatives, I could not accept as a condition the suspension of a legislation passed by Parliament which moreover the hon. member was called to vote on as I and the other members of the House did. It was clearly established that the legislation would be enforced and if it was deliberately violated, the government would not hesitate to take the necessary steps. I repeated also in the correspondence tabled in the House over a year ago the same warning about the fact that we had no doubt that under the legislation, Quebec has acted *ultra vires*. I think that it would be ungracious for my Quebec colleague to act as if he was surprised, since he was warned three years ago. I think that everyone will find the delay reasonable.

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[English]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

SLAVE LAKE, ALBERTA—EFFECT OF CLOSING OF INDUSTRIES ON ECONOMY GENERALLY

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Central Nova concerning industry at Slave Lake. While the minister is investigating the financial

[Mr. Beatty.]

problems of these companies, three of which I understand have now closed their doors, I wonder whether he would look into the effect these financial difficulties and the general depression of the economy have had, as well, specifically, as the depressed prices of forest products which these companies produce, and also the depressed state of the housing construction market.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to do that. I might advise the hon. member that the hon. member for Central Nova has been good enough, since asking me the question, to provide me with more details, and I will put my officials onto it immediately.

Mr. Yewchuk: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister indicate whether he is satisfied that these companies were assured of adequate operating capital once they were enticed into this area by DREE grants, and whether that in fact may be the cause of the difficulty?

Mr. Jamieson: Once again, Mr. Speaker, I can answer in a general way by saying that there is a pretty thorough investigation made in all such cases. However, I would want to look into the details before replying specifically.

CLOSING OF INDUSTRIES IN KOOTENAY WEST, B.C.—
GOVERNMENT EXAMINATION OF REASONS

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of the concern expressed by the minister with reference to the DREE program and industry failure, and more specifically with respect to the Slave Lake area, would the minister also address the specific attention of his department to two failures within the riding of Kootenay West, both located adjacent to the city of Trail, both in desperate need of additional assistance, both of which are going to create major problems of unemployment? Would the minister undertake to examine those specific areas as well as the Slave Lake area?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

PRIVILEGE

MR. RAINES—PROCEEDINGS IN STANDING COMMITTEE ON BROADCASTING, FILMS AND ASSISTANCE TO THE ARTS

Mr. Marke Raines (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. My question of privilege arises from the fact that as a member of the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts I am apparently the only member of that standing committee who has not been given a report on the amount of money spent by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for the introduction of a corporate identification system, commonly known as a logo.