

Inquiries of the Ministry

An hon. Member: Are you resigning and crossing the floor?

ACTION TO PREVENT REMOVAL OF NORTHERN ELECTRIC FROM MONTREAL

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I wish to answer a question which was raised having to do with the Northern Electric Company in Montreal. The rumour was that the company was about to leave Quebec to go elsewhere. That is not true. I telephoned the president of the company and he told me that even the thought never crossed his mind. As a matter of fact, the percentage of Quebecers in the company's population is increasing.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Later:]

Mr. Baldwin: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I asked the minister a straightforward, legitimate question and I did not catch his reply.

Mr. Pepin: I said I would do so, Mr. Speaker.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

RELEASE OF YVES GEOFFROY FROM ST VINCENT DE PAUL PENITENTIARY—POSSIBLE CHARGES AGAINST GUARANTOR OF PASSPORT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I would like to ask the Minister of Justice a question. Has the guarantor of the passport of Geoffroy been charged with any offence?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I know of no additional charge having been laid against another person other than those previously referred to in this House.

Mr. Woolliams: Is that matter under investigation, and if so, will that person be charged?

Mr. Lang: It would obviously be very difficult for me to say very much about any part of that matter without touching on matters which are before the courts, and I think I should refrain from doing so.

POSSIBLE ROLE OF RAYMOND DENIS IN OBTAINING PASSPORT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): What part did Raymond Denis play in reference to obtaining the passport or any other matter with reference to the case?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): To my knowledge, no part at all.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

ROLE OF PAROLE BOARD IN RELEASING MRS. GEOFFROY

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. Minister of Justice whether the National Parole Board was consulted before Mrs. Geoffroy was released on parole?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): I do not think that the question comes within my range of responsibilities.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

FORTHCOMING VISIT BY PRESIDENT NIXON—POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT TO ADDRESS SENATE AND HOUSE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I do not want to disturb the Prime Minister in any way from his absorption in reading, but I would like to ask a question which I hope he will not regard as controversial or upsetting to his equanimity. Has the government extended an invitation to the President of the United States on the occasion of his prospective visit to Ottawa to speak to the House of Commons and the Senate, as was the case during my period as prime minister when we had visits from President Eisenhower and President Kennedy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The arrangements between the two countries are not final yet, and I think it would be improper for me to announce them in a unilateral fashion. However, as soon as possible, we will announce the program for the president's visit in Washington and in Ottawa at the same time.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It is not a question of unilateral revelation at all. The Prime Minister does not trust this House because he reads.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Diefenbaker: He reads with prima donnal arrogance.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It is a disgrace to the House of Commons.

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NATIONAL PARKS

BANFF—POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN LAKE LOUISE RESORT CENTRE

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has there been any federal participation in the Lake Louise project in the Banff National Park, and if so, what is the nature of that participation?