

Oral Questions

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I saw the advertisement. That organization has no commercial interest and cannot be prosecuted for misleading advertising. However, it could be examined by the officials of the Department of Justice to see whether it violates Criminal Code provisions on hate propaganda. Such advertising, Mr. Speaker, is closely related to the comments made by a CBC reporter in Ottawa whose professional ethics and qualifications should be checked, because for the second time in a few weeks, he made a report last night on the salaries of federal members which was also misleading, unfair and hateful.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS**STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON MINISTER'S MEETING WITH UNION OFFICIALS**

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the Minister of Labour.

Since the minister was supposed to meet yesterday with the representatives of the International Longshoremen's Association, can he tell us whether the meeting has taken place and if so, can he explain to the House the results of the meeting?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, I can, Mr. Speaker. I can advise the hon. member that I did meet with the union leadership of the longshoremen yesterday. I indicated to them that before any meaningful discussion could take place with regard to any of the grievances they had against their employers or with regard to the legislation they would have to desist in defying the law, obey the law and go back to work; then such discussions could take place in the normal course of events.

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INDUSTRY**MICROSYSTEMS—METHOD BY WHICH GOVERNMENT TRYING TO RECOVER INVESTMENT AND AMOUNT EXPECTED TO BE RECOVERED**

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Would the minister outline for the House the way in which he is personally attempting to recover the more than \$37 million invested by the Canadian government in Microsystems. Also in view of the fact that Northern Electric will, as it turns out, not lose a penny on its investment in Microsystems, will the minister tell the House how much of the more than \$37 million the government expects to recover from Northern Electric.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is aware that he cannot ask a question worded in that manner.

[Mr. Leblanc (Laurier).]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**NEWFOUNDLAND—REASON FOR DELAY IN APPOINTING JUDGE TO SUPREME COURT AND INTRODUCING LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING APPELLATE COURT**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. I should like to ask the minister when he proposes to appoint a judge to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court of Newfoundland, considering that vacancy has been in existence for almost seven months, is causing a severe workload on the three judges and making it very difficult for this court to sit in on appeals against one of its members judgments.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the possibility of doing this very soon.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the minister if he can explain the delay and, secondly, tell the House when he intends to proceed with the legislation which has been on the order paper for sometime now to create an appellate court for the province of Newfoundland.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, part of the delay relates to the reorganization of the courts and the impact this might have upon appointments. However, as usual the search for well qualified persons to receive these appointments is a significant matter and not one taken lightly and adds to the over-all delay.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**VIET NAM—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ENSURE SAFETY OF NORMAN AND JEAN JOHNSON**

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The minister today advised the House that the PRG had given the Canadian government assurance that Canadians held captive in Viet Nam would be freed as soon as they were identified. As the acting minister last week advised that Norman and Joan Johnson, two missionaries from Hamilton, had been located in a POW camp, can the Secretary of State for External Affairs tell us why these Canadians have not been given their freedom and what specific action the government is taking to ensure that the communist forces do not make that assurance another of their broken promises?

● (1450)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we are making representations through channels which are available to us, and we will continue to do that with respect to the missionaries to whom the hon. member refers. My latest information is that both persons are in good health and that Mr. Johnson himself is permitted to conduct missionary activity within a certain area.