

Oral Questions

● (1420)

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, certain compensation discussions, for example, the Toronto teachers and the pulp workers, have been submitted to the Anti-Inflation Board at the request, in some cases, of one or both of the parties involved, and it is very appropriate that the cases submitted with a sense of urgency to the board should be decided upon by the board. In that sense, I think Mr. Pepin's comment was perfectly sound. These groups may feel that they are unfortunate in the sense that the decisions in their cases happened to come up first, but it is a fact that this has occurred, and that there has been some considerable pressure both from provincial governments and the general public that there should be an early clarification on this point.

VIEW OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE ON POLICY STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of Justice. Since Mr. Pepin's point was not that the board was simply reaching an early decision on a case which was presented to the board before other cases, but was reaching it in a tougher way than was going to be reached, presumably in subsequent decisions, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice if it is his view that such an approach is consistent with the application of Canadian law, which historically has meant that similar situations would be dealt with in a similar way?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, it is in accordance with the law passed by parliament yesterday, I believe.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): It is not.

Mr. Baldwin: It has not been passed yet.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

SUGGESTION BY MR. BIDDEL THAT REGULATIONS MIGHT BE CHANGED—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): I should like to try again with the Minister of Finance on a final supplementary. Since Mr. Jack Biddel, a member of the Anti-Inflation Board, suggested at the same meeting in Toronto yesterday that, to use his phrase, there will be drastic changes in the regulations or the law we have just passed,—this was not clear—and since he is alleged to have said there might be a provision to permit small companies to take a tougher stand with the work force, I should like to ask the minister if Mr. Biddel was reflecting government policy, and if so, when we might expect the further changes he alluded to.

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): The bill is quite precise in that regard. Only under the specific circumstances referred to in the bill, namely, after reference first to the Anti-Inflation Board and then comment by the board in a report to the cabinet that there would be any additions to the list of categories of firms to which reference was made. In that sense, the suggestion that

[Mr. Broadbent.]

companies could voluntarily opt into the program is not covered by the statute and therefore is not government policy.

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[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY TO ENSURE MAFIA HAS NO INFLUENCE ON JUDGES

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Solicitor General.

As Mr. Justice Bronsard of the court of appeal decided to relieve Vic Cotroni of the obligation to appear as a witness before the CIOC, like all the other Mafiosi, thus threatening the seriousness of the work of the commission, could the minister make an in-depth inquiry into our judicial system to make sure that the Mafia has not extended its tentacles even into our courts?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, there is no need to do that. The Royal Commission in Quebec is proceeding at the present time, and we are co-operating with that commission.

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[Translation]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON ALLEGED LEAKS TO PRESS

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary to the Solicitor General.

With regard to inquiries, can the minister tell the House whether he has completed his inquiry into the RCMP, which was advised ahead of time to go to the office of the Minister of State, the hon. member for Langelier? Has the minister been advised of the results of that inquiry, and does he know whether there was really a leak, attributable to either the RCMP, the press or the CBC?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are still following leads with respect to that matter.

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

INQUIRY AS TO GUIDELINES GIVEN TO BOARD BY GOVERNMENT

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I return to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition and the uncertain reply of the Minister of Finance. May I ask the minister first whether any draft guidelines have been placed before Mr. Pepin and his board indicating what the government believes should in