

Questions

Mr. Fournier (Hull):

1. Yes, in a temporary capacity.
2. Yes.
3. He has been superannuated effective October 22, 1949.

LEGAL SERVICES—ARTHUR SLAGHT

Mr. Lennard:

1. Have the services of Arthur Slaght, Esq., K.C., been retained by the federal government during the years 1948 and 1949?
2. If so, in what capacity and in what matters?
3. What remunerations has he received from January, 1948, to date, in each of the matters in which he has been engaged?

Mr. Garson:

1. Yes.
2. As consulting counsel to the Criminal Code revision commission.
3. None.

*COMBINES INVESTIGATION ACT—LEGAL OPINION AS TO PROSECUTIONS

Mr. Coldwell:

1. Has the government sought the opinion of the Department of Justice or of any outside counsel as to whether the evidence contained in the McGregor report on the flour milling industry is sufficient in order to prosecute?
2. If so, what opinion or opinions have been received by the government?
3. Has an outside counsel been consulted? If so, what is his name?

Mr. Coldwell:

1. Has the government sought the opinion of the Department of Justice or of any outside counsel with respect to the application of section 1141 of the Criminal Code to prosecutions under the Combines Investigation Act?
2. If so, what opinion or opinions have been received by the government?
3. Has an outside counsel been consulted? If so, what is his name?

Mr. Garson: Mr. Speaker, these two questions asked by the hon. member for Rose-town-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell) seek the disclosure of legal opinions received by the government. Upon making inquiries I am informed by my deputy, Mr. Varcoe, that this is the first time within his knowledge that production of opinions of this sort has ever been sought. I have also conferred with Mr. McGregor, commissioner under the Combines Investigation Act, with regard to these two questions, and, after that conference, I am of the view that the government should refuse to disclose any of the legal opinions in connection with any combines report.

It should be remembered that these opinions usually take the form of a review and analysis of the relevant parts of the report. Usually the opinions are quite long, and analyse the report from beginning to end. On occasions they refer to the transcript of

[Mr. Courtemanche.]

evidence upon which the report is based. Possible defences in fact or in law, and how they may be met by the crown, are usually commented upon and appraised. The result is a communication between lawyer and client which is and should be privileged from disclosure, because in most, if not in all cases, such disclosure would give the accused and their counsel a preview of the crown's case. This would have a most prejudicial effect upon the prosecution of the case. The government therefore takes the position that it cannot table opinions of this sort.

Mr. Coldwell: Under the circumstances I am prepared to drop the questions. However, I would ask the minister to let me confirm this.

Mr. Garson: Yes, I shall be very glad to do that.

Mr. Speaker: Questions dropped.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. MacInnis:

1. How many persons were receiving unemployment insurance in the months of September and October (a) 1948; (b) 1949?
2. How many new applications for unemployment insurance were received in the months of September and October (a) 1948; (b) 1949?
3. What was the total number of unemployed (applications for employment) by provinces for the month of October (a) 1948; (b) 1949?
4. What was the total number of positions vacant by provinces for the month of October (a) 1948; (b) 1949?

Mr. Cote (Verdun-LaSalle):

1. (a) In September and October, 1948, 44,761 and 55,384 claimants respectively were receiving unemployment insurance.
(b) For the same months in 1949 the figures were 83,525 and 105,064.

2. (a) 28,143 applications were received for unemployment insurance benefits in September, 1948, and 38,104 in October, 1948.

- (b) In September, 1949, 51,935 made application, and 69,349 in October, 1949.

3. Unplaced applicants registered with national employment service offices at the end of October, 1948 and 1949, were as follows:

Province	1948	1949
Newfoundland	—	7,583
Prince Edward Island.	585	195
Nova Scotia	6,485	9,772
New Brunswick	4,153	8,099
Quebec	28,131	49,631
Ontario	31,445	45,811
Manitoba	5,136	7,976
Saskatchewan	3,322	4,258
Alberta	3,948	6,336
British Columbia	18,417	24,068