

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CRIMINAL CODE****ABORTION—INTRODUCTION OF EMERGENCY LEGISLATION**

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the public alarm due to the appalling suffering and the unknown numbers of deaths and mutilations caused by illegal abortions, will the minister consider emergency legislation to deal with this situation?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): As I have stated on several occasions, Mr. Speaker, we are closely studying the medical experience under the recent amendments to the Criminal Code. When we achieve enough information from those statistics we may be in a position to report to the House. At the moment there are no imminent plans to amend the law.

Mrs. MacInnis: A supplementary question. Will the minister consider making an interim statement to give us some idea of the present thinking of the government regarding this matter?

Mr. Nowlan: How many abortions do you need, John?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I have to consider that, Mr. Speaker.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**BLAINE, WASH.—INSURRECTION AND DESECRATION OF UNITED STATES FLAG BY CANADIANS**

Mr. Tom H. Goode (Burnaby-Richmond): My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. On May 11 the minister indicated that he had asked for a report on the recent invasion of Blaine, Washington, by a group of persons from the Canadian side of the border. Has the minister received this report yet?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have received a report on the incident. I have also discussed it informally with a member of the American Embassy here in Ottawa. We both agreed that the police and other authorities acted particularly well in this instance. I told the United States representative, as I said in the House, how greatly we regretted these events and deplored them. May I say I was greatly heartened by the action of those Canadians who went to Blaine and presented

[Mr. Davis.]

an American flag to the people of Blaine. I think this is an indication of the attitude we all take toward the incident, and I think it would be best now to consider it closed.

FINANCE**OBTAINING OF BANK LOANS BY SMALL BUSINESSMEN AND FARMERS**

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey): My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. In view of the fact that the small businessmen and farmers of Canada are having great difficulty in obtaining much needed funds from the chartered banks through the legislation set up on their behalf, would the minister tell us what steps he proposes to take to remedy this situation?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of Finance): I imagine the hon. member is speaking about guaranteed loans. I have not received any representations personally through the mail with respect to particular instances where difficulties have arisen. If such cases can be brought to my attention I will ask the Governor of the Bank of Canada or my officials to look into them.

Mr. Howe: Will the minister not send his officials to some of the small communities to make inquiries? If he did, he would certainly find out what the situation is like at present.

Mr. Benson: My officials will look into particular instances which are brought to my attention; I would be glad if the hon. member would bring particular cases to my notice.

Mr. Howe: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, when I was in my bank yesterday in Arthur, Ontario, the manager said he had never heard about the Small Businesses Loans Act or the Farm Improvement Loans Act.

NATIONAL REVENUE**WESTERN MANITOBA POSTAL SERVICE CUSTOMS CLEARANCES**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): My question is for the Minister of National Revenue, Mr. Speaker. He has been a moving target this afternoon and I have been waiting for his return. Is postal service for all customs clearances in the rural communities in western Manitoba being centralized in the Winnipeg office and, if this policy is in process, why is the service being downgraded at the present time?