

Inquiries of the Ministry

recognized negligence by the employees. Following the appeal, the independent commission rendered a decision that there had not been negligence.

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, will the minister table that report in the House? Also, since in that report it was found that there had been no negligence and that the responsibility was that of penitentiary headquarters in Ottawa, is the minister now prepared to withdraw the statement he made in the House to me on January 22, 1971 when he said:

—six penitentiary officers were suspended following the inquiry, because it revealed circumstances where these officers had been negligent to say the least.

He also said on January 21 that the officials in Ottawa who were responsible—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I suggest to the right hon. gentleman that it might be difficult from a procedural standpoint to quote in detail the references which the right hon. gentleman wants to use in support of his question. Perhaps the question might at this point be asked of the minister.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the minister stated in the House that he agreed there had been negligence by the six guards. He also stated that there had been no responsibility resting on the penitentiary officials. Now the report finds that those allegations on his part had no foundation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I am asking, will he withdraw those allegations?

Some hon. Members: Withdraw!

[Translation]

Mr. Goyer: Mr. Speaker, following the first investigation, it was established that there had been negligence and the penitentiary authorities decided in favour of suspending the guards. At that time, I think the decision was based upon the results of the first investigation.

The second investigation revealed that there had not been any negligence and these people were reinstated.

Would the right hon. member want some change—

[English]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, the minister has not been gracious enough to withdraw the criticism he made of the officers. I ask him to table the report so we can find out exactly what took place and how wrong he was in the petty attitude he took.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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OIL

PROPOSED TAKE-OVER OF SUPERTEST BY BRITISH
PETROLEUM—POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT ACTION—
ACQUISITION BY PANARCTIC OILS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of

[Mr. Goyer.]

Industry, Trade and Commerce who is also Acting Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the action which the government took in preventing the take-over of Denison Mines and Home Oil, is the government planning any measures to deal with the proposed take-over of the last major Canadian-owned distributor of petroleum products, Supertest, by British Petroleum Limited?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, this situation has been under study and an announcement will be made in due course by the minister or somebody speaking for him.

Mr. Douglas: In view of the statement made by Mr. Heatherington, President of Panarctic Oils that he hopes that his organization will become a fully integrated oil company, is the government carrying on any discussions or will it carry on discussions with Panarctic Oils to see about the possibility of acquiring Supertest as a distributor for the products of Panarctic Oils Limited?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any particular discussions between Panarctic and Supertest. I will find out about it and, if such conversations have not been held, suggest that they might take place.

Mr. Douglas: Since this matter is to be dealt with by the shareholders on November 2, am I to assume from the minister's statement that the government proposes to stand idly by and watch this Canadian company being taken over?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS

POLYMER LAY-OFFS—RESULT OF MEETING BETWEEN
MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND SERVICES AND CHAIRMAN
AND PRESIDENT

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Supply and Services. Did the minister summon the Chairman of Polymer Corporation and the president of Polymer Corporation to come to Ottawa in order to discuss the current reduction in the work force, and has the minister anything to report on the results of the said meeting?

Mr. MacInnis: He must have, or the hon. member would not ask the question.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, it is not normal practice for the government to interfere directly in management decisions. However, in view of the seriousness of the position for the employees at Sarnia, I called the chairman and the president of Polymer to Ottawa and met with them, this morning. I am pleased to be able to report to the hon. member and the House that management have been able to cancel 35 notices of termination that were issued earlier this month. Further, Mr. Speaker, subject to the number of hourly paid employees who accept early retirement,