

Oral Questions

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, with reference to the formal grievance procedure, is it possible, in order to meet reasonable or unreasonable demands, to foreshorten the four level procedure?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, I made an offer to the union, that local, and to anybody who has been suspended indefinitely, or up to nine months, I believe, and in the case of dismissals, to accelerate this procedure, move immediately to the fourth level, and do everything in my power to see that justice is rendered. They have yet to take advantage of that. There has yet to be a single suspension or dismissal in Montreal arising out of our recent difference of opinion over casuals submitted to that procedure. I have said before, and I say again, I will do everything in my power to speed up the procedure in the case of the 38 people. It is unfortunate that the union leaders in Montreal, for their own selfish reasons, are denying justice in these 38 cases. Possibly in many instances the suspensions may have been modified; for example, a dismissal could be modified to a six months' suspension, or a six months suspension modified to a two months' suspension, depending on the findings of an independent arbitrator named by the Public Service Staff Relations Board.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**GARRISON DIVERSION—SUGGESTION UNITED STATES BE ASKED FOR A MORATORIUM ON PROJECT**

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister and is in relation to the Garrison Diversion Project in North Dakota. This subject has been raised in the House and standing committees on countless occasions by myself and other hon. members requesting that the Canadian government call for a moratorium. All that is being done is that a joint U.S.-Canadian letter is being sent to the International Joint Commission asking for a study. I have new evidence which now fully confirms that Canada should ask President Ford for an immediate moratorium. In a letter from W. S. Moorehead, Chairman of the—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a question would he put it.

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, this letter recommends to Secretary of State Kissinger of the United States—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the hon. member has a question would he put it to the minister?

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, my question is in relation to the contents of this and other letters. Will the Acting Prime Minister now call upon President Ford for a moratorium on the Garrison Diversion project.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would be very grateful if the hon. member would let me see this correspondence. The Canadian government has been very active in defence of Canadian interests. The United States has made certain undertak-

[Mr. Mackasey.]

ings and if he has evidence that they are not going to carry them out I would like to have it.

Mr. McKenzie: I will table the two letters, Mr. Speaker. I have a supplementary question. In a letter from the United States Commissioner on Reclamation to the Deputy Under Secretary of State he stated—

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member have a supplementary question?

Mr. McKenzie: Yes. In this letter he said—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings.

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INDUSTRY**REQUEST FOR MORE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TO IMPROVE COMPETITIVE POSITION**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. As industrial research and development is extremely important in making our products competitive both in Canada and on the export market, and as Canada spends a considerably smaller proportion of its gross national product on industrial research and development than our five principal industrial competitors, I should like to ask the minister when he intends to bring our efforts in this regard at least up to the efforts of those against whom we must compete for sales in the world market and if possible surpass those efforts.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, there is a joint effort involving both the federal government and the private sector. The government, through incentive programs, through the National Research Council and through programs of my department is trying to do its part. We are also trying to encourage the private sector to do its part. In the last analysis increased research and development will only come about if they make the investment.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, as the minister has simply outlined the reason the program in which the government has engaged has been so unsuccessful, I should like to ask him when he intends to give some leadership in getting our research and development at least up to the level of those countries which are beating the pants off of us every day in respect of sales in Canada and the world market.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Wellington.

Mr. Frank Maine (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Would the minister indicate to the Minister of Finance his support for the suggestion just made by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings which is similar to that which I made recently?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!