

CUSO fund raising. Would the minister tell this House what he and the government have done to protest this serious incident?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I have received a full report on the incident. I can confirm that it took place very much as described by the hon. member. Since that incident, the Canadian High Commissioner to Jamaica has spoken with Prime Minister Seaga to express our dismay, and we are now awaiting an early report from the Jamaican government.

CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF CUSO WORKERS

Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East): Madam Speaker, I personally have grave concerns about the safety of people working in the program in Jamaica, namely, Carl McKenzie and Satish Sachdeva, two people from there. Would the minister tell us what he is prepared to ask of Prime Minister Seaga to guarantee the security of CUSO workers in Jamaica, as well as the continuation of these very excellent programs?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I think we will have to wait for a reply by the Jamaican government to see what the apparent reason for this raid was, and if circumstances warrant such a request we would certainly be prepared to make that request. We have no reason to believe that the safety of any CUSO workers, either Canadians or non-Canadians, is in any way in peril.

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THE BUDGET

PREPARATION OF CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION ADVERTISEMENT

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for housing. The minister has said that the advertisement which has been the subject of discussion in this House was not approved until after a noon cabinet committee meeting held on the thirteenth. Would the Minister tell this House when this ad was written, by whom, and on whose instructions?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I do not have those specifics available at this time.

QUERY RESPECTING MINISTER'S KNOWLEDGE OF ADVERTISEMENT DISTRIBUTION

Hon. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Madam Speaker, I want to ask the minister if he knew, at the cabinet meeting on the thirteenth, that the substance of this advertisement which he and others approved was already in the hands of the newspapers. I also ask if the minister will come into the House tomorrow and give exact details in answer to the question I asked previously?

Oral Questions

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): I would be repeating myself—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cosgrove: —to indicate that at the meeting of the cabinet communications committee held on the thirteenth we reviewed the advertisement as to whether the wording was adequate and reflected the provisions of the budget, and upon deciding that it did and that it could convey the information on the mortgage renewal plan to as many Canadians as quickly as possible the next day, that ad was then authorized and I instructed an official of Canada Mortgage and Housing who was present at the meeting that the ad should go forward and they should by telephone—

An hon. Member: It was already gone.

Mr. Cosgrove: —let the newspapers know that the ad could be printed.

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[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION

INQUIRY WHETHER QUEBEC ANSWERED REQUEST FOR NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development, who is responsible for constitutional affairs. I do not know whether he is in the House. If he is not, my question is directed, Madam Speaker, to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Following frequent appeals made by the Minister of Justice to the PQ government of Quebec to reopen negotiations and to negotiate in good faith with a view to reaching an agreement, and also considering very specific offers made by the Prime Minister of Canada this weekend in Quebec, can the Minister of Justice tell us whether the government of Quebec has shown any willingness to negotiate or if there has not been any response as yet to his request for negotiations?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development): Madam Speaker, last week I was in touch with two ministers of the Quebec government, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. I offered to meet them and discuss the proposals made by the Prime Minister on the day the agreement was signed, November 5, when he offered the government of Quebec various alternatives. The answer was that they did not want to talk to me until the resolution had been tabled in the National Assembly, and since then, no one has been in touch with me. We are still willing to talk to the government of Quebec and try to reach an agreement on the three points Mr. Lévesque could not sign on the day of the agreement, but unfortunately,