

Oral Questions

it will put this once important industry completely out of business?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, when reading that publication put out by my department on manufacturing performance, hon. members will note the comparison between manufacture in Canada and that of other countries. They will see that compared with other countries in the western world in comparison with Japan, we are doing very well in maintaining a high level of manufacturing within Canada.

With regard to the manufacture of colour television sets, we are negotiating on nearly everything in Geneva. We have entered the negotiations in good faith but what we come out with can only be determined by the negotiators there. Certainly, we are well aware of the colour television industry in Canada and the severe competition which television manufacturers face.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, as the minister's idea of a good performance is to lose 80,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector in the past four years, and as the minister has given no answer at all to my question about the possibility of tariffs on colour television sets—or any other manufactured product, for that matter—is it not obvious that it is “dynamic, imaginative” leadership like this that has caused the economy to be in the mess it is in today. This is the kind of minister who put us there.

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[Translation]

FINANCE

INQUIRY WHETHER CARTOGRAPHERS AT SHERBROOKE WILL ENJOY LINGUISTIC PRIVILEGES OF MILITARY

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Since the Quebec government proposal to allow the federal public servants who would settle in Sherbrooke a six year maximum during which they could send their children to English schools has been rejected by the Canadian government, and given the fact that a large percentage of the geographical maps drawn and used in Canada are used by the military and civil aviation, could the minister tell the House whether the Canadian government would be prepared to discuss with the Quebec government whether, under the 101 legislation, the cartographers who expect to be moved to Sherbrooke might enjoy the linguistic privileges of the military?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would surely be interested in discussing such a proposal with the Quebec government. I feel it would be very desirable to have a certain number of public servants transferred to Sherbrooke as provided in the decentralization plan.

[Mr. Hees.]

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED DISCLOSURE OF CPIC RECORDS TO DEPARTMENT STORES

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General: it concerns recent allegations that the CPIC records of the RCMP are being used by major department stores such as the Hudson's Bay company and are being sold at \$12.50 a copy to department stores to assess their personnel and to making hiring decisions. The solicitor general of Ontario is presently investigating this question. Is the Solicitor General of Canada also investigating the allegations, that private and personal records are being sold to major department stores, including juvenile records?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the investigation being conducted by the attorney general for the province of Ontario, I do not know the nature of that investigation. That is information that I have gleaned from the press reports as, undoubtedly, has the hon. gentleman. With reference to CPIC information an investigation has been conducted, and I wish to advise the hon. gentleman that there is no indication of any unauthorized release of information from those records by any people within my responsibility or within the RCMP to any unauthorized individuals.

Mr. Leggatt: Mr. Speaker, would the Solicitor General confirm whether or not he has interviewed Rosemary Morgan, the person who made these very specific allegations? Have his department or the people under his jurisdiction actually inquired of the person making the allegations and determined who had access to the records, since there is no dispute that the records were delivered? The only question is how they were obtained. Thirdly, has he considered referring the whole matter to the McDonald inquiry, to put something else on their plate? Since they have such a big job, they should have this one as well.

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, with reference to the last point, I have had an investigation conducted and I am satisfied that there was nothing untoward in the conduct or the activities of any member of the RCMP or any individual relating to the control of CPIC records themselves within the RCMP. The hon. gentleman, of course, knows how the information is made available to various police forces throughout the country in accordance with very specific, formal arrangements and procedures. Indeed, in terms of the provision by the RCMP of that information, we have been assured there is no leak.

We are satisfied that a proper investigation is being conducted with reference to the locale from which this information is alleged to have been leaked, and undoubtedly a report will be forthcoming. There is no control that we can exercise over the use of that information by the departments which are using it.