

Oral Questions

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ALLEGED TELEGRAM INDICATING DESIRE OF
KIDNAPPERS OF JAMES CROSS TO RETURN TO CANADA

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. Has the government knowledge of a telegram alleged to have been received from the kidnapers of James Cross in which they seek permission to return to Canada to appear before a board which would have the object of deciding whether they should be granted amnesty?

An hon. Member: They want a LIP grant.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of any such telegram.

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AGRICULTURE

TOBACCO—ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION BY
MANUFACTURERS IN PRICE OFFERED TO PRINCE
EDWARD ISLAND GROWERS

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Agriculture of which I have given him notice. Has the Prince Edward Island Flue-cured Tobacco Growers Association been in communication with him regarding their dispute or misunderstanding with the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council arising from the fact that they are apparently about to be paid 14 cents a pound less for tobacco grown in Prince Edward Island than the council is paying for similar grades of tobacco in Ontario? If the minister or the department has been involved in this, could he say what the result has been?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, neither I nor the department has been directly contacted by the tobacco producers of Prince Edward Island, but they have met my colleague, the Minister of Veterans Affairs, and had a discussion with him about their problem. I understand that he is awaiting some further documentation from these people so we can proceed to a proper investigation and take action if we can.

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COMBINES

TOBACCO—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF ACTIONS
OF TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS COUNCIL IN DEALING
WITH PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND GROWERS

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and it is with regard to this dispute. Has any inquiry, even in a preliminary way, been made to investigate whether or not the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council, in dealing with the growers in Prince Edward Island, is acting in a fashion that is legal under the Combines Investigation Act?

[Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan).]

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. As he knows, the practice has been not to confirm or deny the existence of an investigation, but I have asked my officials for a further report in order to see if I can provide any additional proper information to the hon. gentleman.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. In view of the fact the rules forbid asking for a legal opinion from the government, would the minister advise us what procedure to take in order to receive a legal opinion from the government?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I think that may itself be asking for a legal opinion. Subject to that reservation, I would simply like to advise the hon. member that he is quite right in saying that it is the duty of the Minister of Justice to advise the government on legal matters but that persons otherwise seeking legal advice must see their own legal advisers.

• (1510)

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, legislation passed by this House has not been administered by the responsible party in accordance with the legislation itself, and I have been trying every possible method, including questions in the House of different ministers, to find out why. I am not asking for a legal opinion directly from the minister or from any minister of the Crown. All I want to know is whether the government is in a position to give a legal opinion?

Mr. Crouse: Don't all rise at once.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Selkirk.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

REPORT ON DAMAGE TO HMCS RESTIGOUCHE—REQUEST
FOR STATEMENT

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Has he now received the report resulting from investigation of the damage done to HMCS *Restigouche*, which I understand was forwarded to him this week, and, if so, can he inform the House whether he will be making a statement on motions, based on that report, and will the report be made public?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the report has been received and is being considered.

Mr. Rowland: Can the minister inform the House whether the report recommends legal action against the ship-