

Oral Questions

the hon. member, I will have the minister invited to Egypt and he can fly in Molson's plane on the next trip.

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GRAINPOSSIBLE REPEAL OR AMENDMENT OF CROWNEST PASS
FREIGHT RATE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the minister's answer given in this House on October 29, in response to a question by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar to the effect that any changes in the Crowsnest Pass freight rates in the months and years ahead will require legislation in this House, can the minister advise the House whether the government intends during the present session either to repeal or amend the Crowsnest Pass freight rates.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, there is no intention on the part of the government to introduce such legislation in the present session.

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CONFLICT OF INTERESTSUGGESTED DISCLOSURE OF ASSETS BY MINISTERS—
ADEQUACY OF BLIND TRUST PROVISION

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Is the right hon. gentleman seriously reviewing guidelines on conflict of interest for himself and his fellow ministers, as outlined in the green paper on conflict of interest, and will he now insist that all ministers, together with himself, make full and complete disclosure before the Clerk of this House on both their own and their family's assets and liabilities?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, guidelines for ministers were enunciated before the House last year and I do not recall the particular suggestion of the hon. member being made at that time in response to my statement. However, I would remind the hon. member that guidelines have been put forward for members of parliament. They have been suggested to parliament by the government and they are to be examined at leisure by a parliamentary committee. If this examination takes place, the government will be prepared to implement such legislation and it is just possible that if the suggestion of the hon. member has merit, it will be adopted by his colleagues and included in the law, in which case it will apply to ministers.

Mr. Grafftey: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Does the Prime Minister not feel that conflict of interest is more a House of Commons affair than one for officials of the Privy Council, and does he seriously believe that blind trusts, as outlined in the green paper on conflict of interest, constitute the kind of declaration which will seriously satisfy the people of Canada?

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The answer has been given. A House of Commons committee will consider this matter. I do not think that was a proper question.

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SCIENCEREQUEST FOR INCREASED SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH IN
UNIVERSITIES—POSSIBILITY OF MAKING A COST STUDY

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Science and Technology. In view of claims of Canadian scientists that the growth rate of National Research Council spending on university research in the past half dozen years has been only a fraction of that applying to similar programs in countries like the United States, Great Britain and France, countries which support their scientists, is the minister, together with his officials, considering a re-evaluation of support for scientific research in Canadian universities.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, it is clear that this particular matter requires reviewing. Indeed, it should be viewed against the perspective of substantial increases in research funds granted in aid of universities and researchers in the late 1960's. At that time it was agreed government policy to devote additional funds which could be made available for research in areas which, on an international comparative basis, we appeared to be lagging. I am thinking of research outside of government and outside of universities, namely, in industry. The thrust of the government in assigning funds in this period has been devoted largely to increasing and improving research in industry; research in aid of education within universities has been held more or less stable. As a consequence, however, of rising prices and the effects of inflation, the sums dedicated to university research should be augmented.

● (1440)

Mr. Orlikow: Bearing in mind the claims of research scientists that the cost of research has risen substantially and that the increases granted in recent years have not, therefore, led to an increase in research activity—on the contrary, there has actually been a decrease—and that this situation has made it particularly difficult to offer opportunities to younger scientists entering the field, would the government undertake to study the actual cost of carrying out research work with a view to ensuring that the level can at least be held somewhat near that of 1968 or 1969?

Mr. Drury: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Stevens: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I rise because I have been attempting to catch your eye in order to address a supplementary to the Prime Minister. I was greatly disturbed by the Prime Minister's flippant answer—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The question of whether or not a further supplementary ought to be allowed is entirely within the discretion of the Chair, which is guided by the nature of the subject and the answer or answers given up to that point. While I may never satisfy all hon. members,