

Oral Questions

ACCESS TO FOOD INSPECTORS' REPORTS

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Agriculture but is on a different matter. Over the past several years meat inspection in Canada has shifted from government inspection to self-inspection, with occasional spot-checks to protect the public interest.

Mr. Riis: Just like the banks.

Mr. Althouse: Can the Minister tell us why the public is not given access to these spot-check reports since public knowledge is now the only control against sloppy practices by processors?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the very simple answer to that is that there are two cases involved. One case goes back a number of years and indeed, as far as the Department was concerned, we wanted to make that information available to the public. However, certain segments of the industry lodged a court injunction against making that information public. In the last round of observations made by certain media people across the country, an investigation was triggered immediately. To my knowledge, that has now been completed. I see no reason for it not being made public and, if it has not already been made public, I would be happy to inquire about it.

AVAILABILITY OF REPORT

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, it is over a month ago now that the Kitchener-Waterloo allegations were being investigated by the Minister's Department and the Director of the Inspections Branch had promised to report within a week, five weeks ago. Why has that report not been made available to the *Kitchener-Waterloo Record* and to the public?

Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if it was five weeks ago. It would seem to me that a more accurate time frame might well be three weeks ago. However, I well recall receiving the report. I gave a message to the appropriate departmental official to release it. I would be happy to inquire if it has not been released.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ENFORCEMENT OF COURT ORDERS IN LABOUR DISPUTES

Mr. Ross Belsher (Fraser Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. When a contractor finds it necessary to go to court to get access to the job site and the court gives an order limiting pickets to two per entrance, how long should the contractor have to wait for the protection of the RCMP to enforce the court order?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is referring particularly to a court injunction granted in Langley, British Columbia. In this particular case the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were

operating as a contract police force for the province. It would be under the jurisdiction of the province as to what sort of time would be taken.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ASBESTOS—MEMORANDUM EMANATING FROM CANADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I have here a memo from the Canadian Embassy in Washington to External Affairs in Ottawa that was leaked over a week ago now. The subject of the memo is the safe use of asbestos in the United States, something which of course means hundreds of jobs here in Canada. Has the Secretary of State done the investigation he said he would do? Is it complete? Who leaked the memo? What will the Secretary of State do about the bungling to make sure that our people in Washington are working on behalf of the workers in Canada?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, first I will enquire as to three of the four questions the Hon. Member asked and I will get back to him. As to who leaked the memo, he probably knows that better than I do, and I would be very interested in his telling me.

PROTECTION OF JOBS

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador): Mr. Speaker, whether members of the Party opposite realize it or not, they are now the Government and the onus is on them to conduct the affairs of Canada on behalf of the people of Canada. It is not enough to slough off a question like that. Who leaked the memo? We want to know, and I would like to ask the Secretary of State again because hundreds of jobs in the asbestos industry in Canada depend on it. Will he do something to assure those workers that the Government is working on their behalf?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the Government is working very vigorously on behalf of the asbestos workers in Canada, as the Hon. Member knows. We have made representations before a number of bodies in the United States, and we intend to continue to do so.

Obviously it is important to the case we make on this matter, as it is on the international trade matter, that confidential information that will help Canada prevail not be leaked to other people. That is why I would like to know who is leaking information when it is leaked. Since it is the Hon. Member who has the information that was leaked, I suggest that he may know better than I, and if he is genuinely interested in helping the Canadian case on asbestos, he will reveal his sources.