

*Oral Questions***NATIONAL SECURITY****ALLEGED USE OF CANADIAN TERRITORY BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TO AID REVOLUTIONARIES—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT**

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, I hope I may be permitted to ask a question of the Acting Prime Minister, with a short supplementary. First, how recently has the government been advised by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police concerning whether Canadian territory has been used frequently by certain foreign diplomats for co-operation with persons in the United States dedicated to revolutionary activities against legal governments in third countries?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I find it very difficult to answer that question. I think the hon. member should be more specific.

REASON FOR EXPULSION OF CHINESE DIPLOMAT

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Will the minister confirm that Chinese diplomat Kuo Ching An was expelled from Canada because he delivered to representatives of Philippine revolutionaries in the United States, one of whose leaders has been Sergio Osmena, Jr., a sizeable sum of money to promote trouble in the Philippines, particularly to promote the assassination of Ferdinand Marcos, the president of that nation. Also, will the Acting Prime Minister make public all government files in this regard to prove the accuracy of the answer he will now give the House?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer I will now give the House is that security matters are never discussed in this House if I can help it.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**POSSIBILITY OF CHANGES IN PROGRAM IN VIEW OF CHANGES IN ECONOMY**

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the changed economic climate and rules, will the minister be proposing policy variations to the DREE programs to adapt to these changes? Also, will he be speaking, either during the course of the debate on Bill 73 on these matters or on motions in the near future?

[Translation]

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I can tell the hon. member that of course all government departments are required to help enforce the measures the government announced last week. As for my department, I am happy to inform him that our programs will keep on developing and I am hopeful that in the next few months, we shall even be able to experience further expansion of the department's activities, since our work is particularly aimed at the areas

[Mr. Mackasey.]

in need of government assistance and I shall make it a point to bring the representations of the hon. member and many others to the attention of the cabinet.

[English]

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the minister for his answer. It is reassuring. I bring to his attention that at the time DREE was conceived, there were in this country clearly defined areas of economic stress. Under the present climate, the whole country is in that category. Will the minister again reiterate that he does have some specific initiatives to take so that DREE will continue to have some priority in the scheme of things?

[Translation]

Mr. Lessard: Mr. Speaker, I must again assure the hon. member that my department has a very specific role to play in that it deals specially with the areas in need of greater help than others. Canada as a whole may be in difficulty but some areas, and particularly the one he represents, need special attention from the government and the department that I head. Its activity will be directed towards those regions. I can again assure the hon. member that we will not lose interest in the underdeveloped areas of Canada. If it is deemed that new programs are needed in co-operation with provincial governments, similar to the one now being implemented, we will doubtless undertake them as soon as possible.

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[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE**SUGGESTED DENIAL OF RIGHT TO STRIKE—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. It arises out of answers given to members of this House today in response to questions about the present postal strike. It is the feeling of many innocent Canadians that they are entitled to a postal service, that it is an essential service and that with the present arrangement, we are only giving lip service to the bargaining process and then legislating various groups back to work through various pieces of legislation. Is the government now seriously considering that the right to strike in essential services is not workable and that an alternative to the present practice will be brought forward for debate in this House in the near future?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. We have no intention of bringing forward such legislation of a general character. Whether at some time in the future it will be necessary with regard to particular groups, that is a matter to be determined in the future. At the moment, we have no such general legislation in mind.