

previously, the subject matter is subject to investigation and that investigation is ongoing.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, when we in Saskatoon appear to be giving a standing ovation, we are usually slapping our thighs.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1452)

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The Prime Minister will learn that there will be more than thigh-slapping in the next election; I can tell him that. In view of the fact that the government has already involved itself in one raid on the *Toronto Sun* in relation to the attempt to get the source of the government blacklist leak from that newspaper, will the government give the *Toronto Sun* notice of any future raids they might carry out?

Mr. Blais: I am not the one conducting the investigation.

Mr. Gillies: That's for sure; you are not doing anything.

INQUIRY WHETHER WARREN HART TAPES WERE DESTROYED

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General, if I may bring him back from Saskatchewan to his responsibilities, which so far he has avoided so well.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jarvis: I hear a chorus of "Oh, oh". Over there incompetence really does demand such a chorus. I should like to ask him a question about a specific incident, the Warren Hart incident. The Solicitor General is aware of the reports of the tapings by Mr. Hart, allegedly under the direction of a former solicitor general, a member of the House, and he is also aware of the reports that these tapes were destroyed. Will the minister advise the House whether, in fact, the tapes were destroyed and, if so, under whose authority; and were any transcripts made from those tapes before their destruction?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): I think all aspects of that question were covered quite explicitly by me on previous occasions when other members asked exactly the same questions. The hon. gentleman referred to allegations of directions respecting the taping. That has been specifically denied: no directions of that nature have ever been issued.

Mr. Jarvis: Mr. Warren Hart has been contacted by a Lieutenant-Colonel C. A. Christian. Can the Solicitor General confirm that that gentleman is in the employ of the McDonald commission? Would he, at the same time, tell us whether Lieutenant-Colonel Christian is the same Mr. Christian who was previously a member of the Canadian armed forces who was recalled in the late 1960s from a tour of duty in Europe?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the gentleman who has been identified. But surely the hon. member has a

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telephone in his office and can obtain that information from the royal commission as readily as I can.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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MANPOWER

APPLICATION FORMS FOR FARMERS SEEKING OFFSHORE WORKERS

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Why is it that Canada Manpower centres and farm labour pools across Ontario are requiring farmers who apply for offshore labour to sign a blank application form, which gives Manpower the right to write in the wages at a later date without consulting the farmer?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): We have had few complaints from farmers in this area. They know about the wages spelled out and the means employed, in the interest of hiring offshore labour, to see that they get a fair shake. I do not think it is appropriate that they should be signing blank application forms. I will check it out. I thank the hon. member for his representation.

Mr. Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): In light of the confusion and frustration being experienced by fruit and vegetable farmers when applying for offshore labour at farm labour pools, will the minister now withdraw the conditions which are creating the problem and permit the farmers, who are producing cheap food for Canadians, to obtain the same number of offshore workers as they did last year, at least until the minister has had time to consult farm organizations?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, not only have I had time, but I made time to discuss this matter as recently as two days ago with apple growers in one part of Ontario. I think I met every group that is hiring offshore labour. We have gone over the terms and conditions. The concern that they recognize I have is that at a time of high unemployment, we should be making a solid effort to hire as many Canadians as we can. I have indicated we will bring in the same number this year as we did last year, so there will be no cutting back. We have indicated that we are prepared to be flexible in the timing so far as various farmers and various crop periods of the year are concerned. Also we are prepared to allow some flexibility in moving from one farm to another. So we have done everything possible to accommodate these individuals. But I think our prime responsibility is to Canadians looking for work.