

LABOUR CONDITIONS

LAY-OFFS AT URANIUM CITY, SASK.

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance, who talks about shutdowns of towns. When he was Minister of Energy he not only shut down a mine, but the whole town of Uranium City, Saskatchewan. The heartless act of the Minister of Finance put four times more people out of work than were put out of work in Schefferville. These people are still suffering.

The Government, through the present Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, has complimented our Leader with respect to the humane way in which he, as president of that corporation, treated the people who were unfortunately laid off in that town. With all the resources of the Government behind the Minister of Finance, what is he going to do to bring justice to those thousands of people who have been laid off at Uranium City? Is he heartless, or is he going to do something for those people?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows very well that, when the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs wrote that letter, he was referring to the way the federal Government had made public funds available to the people who had been laid off as a result of the decision of that company. And if half the North Shore is still shut down today, we know who can be held responsible for that!

[English]

With regard to Uranium City, the Hon. Member knows—and I invite him to look at the record—that the Eldorado Mining Company has introduced the most generous scheme of any—

Mr. Mulroney: Oh no.

Mr. Lalonde:—company in Canada in terms of helping the people in that case where the mine had to close because it was absolutely uneconomical to operate.

Mr. Mulroney: Absolutely.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BRAINWASHING EXPERIMENTS FINANCED BY AMERICAN CIA— EXPRESSION OF APOLOGY

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is with regard to the problems of the nine Canadians who were involved in brainwashing experiments conducted in Canada funded by the CIA. In January the Minister indicated that the United States Government had apologized for these experiments and that our Government was prepared to take the case

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to the International Court of Justice at The Hague if satisfaction was not obtained. Satisfaction has not been obtained.

The confidential apology received from the United States is useless to the nine people concerned, and an insult to Canada, particularly since the actions of the CIA were a violation of Canada's sovereignty. Is the Minister prepared to make the details of the apology public and to tell Canadians what officials from the U.S. State Department or the CIA expressed regret, and what they said? If not, why not?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the question of the expression of apology or regrets has been covered already in the House and in correspondence. My predecessor, the present High Commissioner to London, addressed letters to Members of the Opposition when he was in this post. In them he stated that there had been an expression of regret by officials of the United States for the actions which had been taken at the Allan Memorial Institute. Furthermore, there is at least one member currently serving in the Department who recalls the oral transmission of these regrets to Canadian officials. I will be prepared to send that detailed information to the Hon. Member.

I do not think there is a written statement by an American official. There were expressions of regret. It was upon that fact that the former Minister made the assertions in letters to Members of Parliament at the time, several years ago.

● (1440)

REQUEST THAT CASE BE REFERRED TO INTERNATIONAL COURT
OF JUSTICE

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows that the United States Government has thus far stonewalled all efforts to obtain compensation for the CIA's Canadian victims. There is no satisfaction in sight. Will the Minister now follow up his commitment to take the matter to the International Court of Justice at The Hague? If so, will he indicate when he might take such a step?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member knows that members of the Department are under standing ministerial instructions to pursue this case with vigor with the United States authorities. I can assure him that I have taken a personal interest in the case. I have followed it up as urgently as could be done in the circumstances, and will continue to do so. We have consistently taken the view that the actions of the CIA in funding the research constitutes an infringement of Canadian sovereignty. We intend to press the case forward with the United States diplomatically.

The Member has raised the question of the International Court of Justice. That is a serious proposal which he has made, and it is an action that could only be undertaken after very serious consideration.