

is about it in all parts of the House, especially among the younger members, will the minister give consideration to this as a priority measure during the life of this parliament?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Mr. Speaker, it was suggested that I should appear before the standing committee to discuss this matter when the estimates were considered. I agreed to do so and I appeared several times but the committee decided in its own wisdom not to raise this issue again. This question is one that is being considered with all the other issues concerning the review of social security that is taking place with the provinces at the present time.

**Mr. Baldwin:** What is the life of this parliament?

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#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

##### APPLICATION BY GOVERNMENT FOR WRIT OF PROHIBITION AGAINST PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED BY MR. JUSTICE MORROW—RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In view of the Prime Minister's commitment last week to discuss with the Minister of Justice the application for a writ of prohibition against proceedings being conducted by Mr. Justice Morrow, would the minister say whether or not the government has reconsidered its decision to intervene in the judicial processes of the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, we have not changed our view that the appropriate proceeding in connection with those proceedings is in fact our application in the Federal Court.

**Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Since the government apparently feels that the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories is not competent to handle this matter and since this action could be interpreted as restricting the jurisdiction of the court, would the minister be prepared to delineate those areas which the government still feels are within the competence of the court?

**Mr. Lang:** The hon. member may be using the word "competence" in a strictly technical, legal sense. There is no suggestion at all that the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories has any different jurisdiction or different competence than the equivalent courts of any of the provinces in this country. The exact question before the court involves several issues including the matter of a caveat which the judge of the court was hearing as a person designated in the statute to hear it. The question of whether or not a particular claim against the federal Crown exists is clearly stipulated under the law passed by this parliament to be within the jurisdiction of the Federal Court, and in that sense no other court in Canada is competent. It has nothing to do with the particular court of the Northwest Territories.

#### Oral Questions

[Translation]

#### INDUSTRY

##### ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES—REQUEST FOR REGIONAL OFFICES IN EASTERN QUEBEC

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

In view of the difficulties small and average-size industries are having in eastern Quebec in facing competition and developing more rapidly to create additional jobs, can the minister tell the House whether he intends to set up departmental regional offices with a view to promoting further the development of small industries in that part of Quebec?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I expect to be making an announcement with respect to an additional regional office in the province of Quebec very shortly.

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#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### KILLING OF TWO CANADIAN GIRLS WHILE VISITING VICTORIA FALLS—NAME OF SPECIAL ENVOY TO ZAMBIA—REQUEST FOR COMPLETE REPORT

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As it has been reported by Patrick Best in the *Ottawa Citizen* of June 13 that Dr. W. G. Phillips, Dean of the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Windsor and special advisor to the president of Zambia for seven years, was the government envoy to Zambia, can the government advise the House if indeed Dr. Phillips was the envoy, has he returned and, if so, when did he return?

● (1500)

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows it is not competent upon him to ask a minister to confirm or deny a statement made in the press. Perhaps we can assume that the hon. member asked the question directly and the minister might wish to reply in those terms.

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, it was a condition of the acceptance of the envoy I sent to Zambia that his anonymity should be respected, and I intend to abide by that condition.

[Later:]

**Mr. Hales:** Mr. Speaker, I direct my supplementary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Why has he not made a full and complete report to the House on this tragic situation, and why have the families of these two girls been denied a full report of the facts gathered by the envoy and by our High Commissioner in Zambia?

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I have given to the House all the relevant facts that are available. I did indicate, when I spoke about the report made to us by Mr. Leith, the nature of his disagreement with the explanations that had been