

Finance. After years of government studies related to the problems of small business the government at long last has come up with a program which basically outlines the government's intention to continue to study the problems of small business. In yesterday's Throne Speech three full words were dedicated to the largest potential employment sector in Canada. I would like to ask the minister whether or not he can assure the small businessmen in Canada that some specific and realistic incentive oriented programs will be introduced forthwith by the government before it is too late for the small businessmen, such as some programs which have been detailed by members on this side of the House on several occasions in the past.

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): If I have any announcement to make, it will be made at another time. However, I am glad to note that the hon. member is aware that we have been working very hard to assist small business and that it is bringing some good results.

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CRIMINAL CODE

REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO OBSCENITY AND PORNOGRAPHY PROVISIONS

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of Justice. Because of concern for the present apparent weaknesses in the Canadian obscenity and pornography laws embodied in the Criminal Code, is the government planning to introduce remedial legislation in this session or, if not, will the government refer this matter to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs so that it can study the difficult problems involved?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): I have been consulting with the provincial attorneys general on possible amendments to the wording in the code and some amendments are under consideration. I cannot undertake at present to say when we will be able to lay before parliament changes in the law. In the meantime, the provincial attorneys general and I have agreed that the best possible way to proceed would be by active law enforcement within the provinces against those distributing pornography and active surveillance by the Department of National Revenue at the border in terms of the customs operation with regard to the importation of pornography into Canada.

Mr. Dick: I thank the minister for his very informative reply and I would like to ask whether or not he would consider and inquire from the attorneys general of various provinces whether their correspondence could be tabled and referred to the standing committee so that the standing committee could also discuss this important matter and perhaps give some assistance to the Minister of Justice and to his department.

Mr. Basford: Yes, I will consider that, Mr. Speaker.

Privilege—Mr. Whelan

INDUSTRY

NEWSPRINT—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL AID

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact that the Canadian share of the U.S. newsprint market has dropped from 80 per cent to approximately 60 per cent, what new initiatives does the minister have to strengthen the Canadian pulp and paper industry which generates about \$1 out of every \$8 in the export market?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, here again we recognize the fact that newsprint and pulp and paper are in a soft market in today's world and we are doing everything we can.

An hon. Member: What are you doing about it?

An hon. Member: According to you everything is soft.

An hon. Member: And so are you, Jack.

Mr. Horner: We are doing everything we can to assist the newsprint and the pulp and paper industry in Canada.

Mr. Epp: The minister keeps on using the words "we are doing everything we can". What do those words mean specifically?

Mr. Horner: First of all, in doing everything we can, we must recognize the situation in which we find ourselves, and that is more than the opposition does. We recognize that position. We realize that in many cases our industry does not achieve the productivity level necessary to allow it to compete with the United States.

An hon. Member: Why?

Mr. Horner: To some extent it is the wages. Hon. members in the NDP ask why not. It is to a great extent because our wages have been higher than those in American industry. By recognizing those problems we can find the answers.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. WHELAN—QUESTION BY MR. COSSITT

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege regarding the question which the hon. member for Leeds asked the Minister of Finance. The hon. member referred to a trip I took to Myrtle Beach. I want to make it clear that I was invited there by the Southern Agriculture Chemical Association for a seminar, to explain the legislation we have in Canada which is the envy of the people of the United States of America.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!