

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

DATE OF TABLING OF BRYCE REPORT

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Will the minister advise when he intends to table the royal commission report on corporate concentration, or the Bryce report?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that matter does not fall within my jurisdiction.

Mr. Clark: What does?

Mr. Paproski: What is your job?

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ENERGY

CONSTRUCTION OF GAS PIPELINE FROM ALBERTA TO QUEBEC AND MARITIMES

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the government be announcing shortly the construction of a gas pipeline from Alberta to Quebec and the maritimes?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, no announcement can be made of such a construction until an application is before the National Energy Board. I very much hope there will be one, or more than one application to extend the TransCanada system right to the Atlantic Ocean.

Mr. Ritchie: Mr. Speaker, are studies going on by the government as to the financing implications, in view of polar gas and LNG tankers, and will these be published before a decision is taken?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, studies are going on in my department with respect to some of these questions. Studies are also being undertaken by Petro-Canada in conjunction and co-operation with Alberta Gas Trunk Line on possible applications with respect to Quebec and the maritimes. There are also, of course, studies going on by Petro-Canada with respect to liquefied natural gas and bringing that gas down from the High Arctic. With regard to Petro-Canada—which is a very important agent; one which your party does not seem to recognize—it is because of their initiative there may well be a pipeline.

Privilege—Mr. Rodriguez
NATIONAL SECURITY

SEARCH WARRANTS ISSUED RESPECTING TELEVISION NETWORKS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It is on the question of warrants issued with regard to the Global and CTV television networks. Would the Solicitor General advise whether those warrants were issued under the Official Secrets Act, and would he also advise whether his office inspired or initiated that action respecting the issuance of the warrants?

● (1502)

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I cannot inform the hon. gentleman of the specific nature of the warrants which were obtained. I am advised that they were obtained from a justice of the peace. I have not seen them, nor have I received a report today relating to the events that followed, except those that have come to me through the press.

Mr. Leggatt: The question dealt with whether they were initiated in the Solicitor General's office. Perhaps the Solicitor General would deal with that specifically in his reply. I would also like to ask whether he has now received a researched opinion from the law officers of the Crown as to the duties and responsibilities of members of parliament vis-à-vis the Official Secrets Act. Does he now have a legal opinion upon which to act, in terms of his investigation of any member of the House?

Mr. Blais: The two questions are really intertwined and they relate to an ongoing investigation. As the hon. gentleman knows, the investigation, being ongoing, is not subject to comment at this time.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. RODRIGUEZ—ALLEGED ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF HON. MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Yesterday the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) again raised the question of privilege which he had raised on two previous occasions, the first time about a week and a half ago, and the second time a few days ago, relating to the possibility, as has been alleged publicly, of electronic surveillance against himself.

First of all I want to reiterate the importance with which this matter must be viewed, I am sure, by all members of the House, because the classic definition of privilege has been based upon precedents which predate even the possibility of electronic surveillance, and therefore electronic intervention in the freedom of communication and movement of a member of the House of Commons is a new question as it relates to privilege.

I am sure all hon. members would agree with me that any possibility of electronic surveillance of a member raises a very serious problem and should be given utmost priority by the