

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, May 7, 1965

The House met at 11 a.m.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

USE OF SATELLITE TO LOCATE LUCIEN RIVARD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Bow River): I had planned to ask the Minister of Justice this question. In his absence I will direct it to the Prime Minister. If I may preface it with two lines, perhaps I could say that the Early Bird satellite was successfully used to locate Mr. Lemay, one of the most wanted criminals in Canada, and responsible sources have advised me that Early Bird was also to be used to locate another of Canada's most wanted criminals. Did the Government or the Minister of Justice stop this procedure and, if so, why?

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge there was no intervention or interference in that procedure. As far as I am concerned I did not have any knowledge of it before it was shown on the television screen, but I will consult the Minister of Justice to see whether he can throw any light on it.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question. Is it a fact that Mr. Rivard's picture was to have been flashed over Early Bird but that a minister, or people in high places in the Government, prevented this procedure from taking place?

Mr. Pearson: I have just stated that it is not a fact as far as I am concerned, and I have no reason to think it is a fact as far as anybody else is concerned.

Mr. Woolliams: A further supplementary question. Is the Prime Minister or other Members of the Government prepared to answer the questions asked by the hon. Member for Battle River-Camrose in connection with the application for a passport by Mrs. Rivard, and give the House a full report on Rivard's escape? Why are the facts being withheld?

Mr. Pearson: The facts are very simple and were stated by the Acting Minister the other

day. The application was made by Mrs. Rivard for a passport on April 6 and the matter is being considered now.

Mr. Woolliams: Another supplementary question—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Woolliams: Surely in circumstances of this kind there is no question of consideration being given to granting a passport to Mrs. Rivard?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. Member is beginning to argue the question.

SEFKIND BANKRUPTCY—INQUIRY AS TO LAYING OF CHARGES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Eric Nielsen (Yukon): In the absence of the Minister of Justice again today may I ask his Parliamentary Secretary whether he has a reply to the question I put yesterday to the Solicitor General.

Mr. D. S. Macdonald (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): No, I am sorry; I do not have a reply today, but I will check to see whether we can have one ready for the hon. Member on Monday.

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

PROVISION FOR REVIEW OF COST OF LIVING INCREASES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Finance regarding the Bureau of Statistics report concerning the cost of living index, which for April of this year reached 137.7 as compared to 135.0 for April 1964. This represents an increase of 2.7 percentage points. I wanted to ask the Minister whether his Department has set up any machinery for a constant review of these increases in the cost of living, in view of the fact that they represent a greater increase than was considered reasonable by the Economic Council of Canada. Could I ask the Minister also whether there is any review of the relative profits of the various sectors of the economy, to ascertain whether these increases are warranted?