

Oral Questions

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and try to find that out.

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NATIONAL MUSEUMS

APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister? In view of the fact that in announcing a few days ago the appointment of a new Secretary General for the National Museums of Canada, the Prime Minister went out of his way to praise Miss Jennifer McQueen for the work she had done as acting secretary-general, stating that during that period Miss McQueen had demonstrated all the qualities necessary for a promising career in the public service, why was Miss McQueen not appointed to the post for which she was a natural?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Because somebody else was more qualified, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): How does the Prime Minister expect the people of Canada to believe that this government is committed to equality between men and women when so soon after passing up Dr. Marguerite Ritchie for another post, another qualified woman has been pushed aside?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member might remember that a very short while ago there was an acting head of the Economic Council of Canada who was replaced by a woman who was not on the Economic Council of Canada. It can happen on both sides, Mr. Speaker.

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ELECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATE OF BY-ELECTIONS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Some time ago I asked what his intention was with regard to the seven by-elections which have not been called. He indicated that he would observe the law. I assume that is so. Can he tell us his intentions with regard to that matter, and when will he be making an announcement about the setting of the date for those by-elections?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): My intentions have not changed, Mr. Speaker. I still intend to abide by the provisions of the legislation.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Given that the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections seems to be one jump ahead of the Prime Minister with regard to this matter and has come to some consensus as to how the Election Expenses

[Mr. Beatty.]

Act might apply to candidates in by-elections, does the government House leader have any intention of bringing that legislation forward within the next few days?

● (1502)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): I understood that consensus existed among the parties, but I have been recently informed that no such consensus exists with respect to bringing in legislation, as I was prepared to do to clear up this matter.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. BALDWIN—THE ALEXANDER PETER TREU CASE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege of which I have given you notice. It has to do with the case of Dr. Alexander Peter Treu.

In the first place I want to make my own position clear. I am acting as one of the legal counsel to Dr. Treu. I am receiving no fee now, nor will I be receiving any fee, so I have no pecuniary interest at all. I think the House is entitled to know this.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baldwin: I was greatly disturbed to read in *Hansard* some of the statements made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) yesterday in answer to questions asked by my hon. friend from Halifax and other members of this party. Either the right hon. gentleman was devious, or he was ignorant. Because of the rules of the House I will accept the latter explanation. As reported at page 6517, the Prime Minister said, in connection with the contracts Dr. Treu received after his persecution by the government had commenced:

The simple answer, as the Minister of Justice indicated, is that the contracts received from NATO during the latter period were not classified as confidential.

This is a very natural thing. These are commercial contracts and no one suggests that commercial contracts are classified. But out of those contracts received by Dr. Treu, while he was being prosecuted, while his documents were taken away during the two years of his trial, some 2,000 products and/or documents of a classified nature were processed by Dr. Treu and forwarded by him to the NATO centres at which they were received. The contracts may not have been classified but the end products were, to the extent of some 2,000.

In the second place, as far as I am able to gather in a limited time, Dr. Treu did receive at least two classified documents, one in April, 1975, and a second document dated June 21, 1976, after his trial had commenced, which he received with an attached list of a classified nature on June 26, 1976, and of course he sent the classified material back. So much for the question of classified documents.

Dealing with a further aspect, the right hon. gentleman said with regard to the security classification: