

Oral Questions

ing the fee paid to Shaul Eisenberg on the sale of a CANDU reactor to South Korea. Having read the report from the Canadian embassy in Seoul which quoted the ex-president of Korean Electric Company as having said that Eisenberg performed the normal liaison functions of a commercial agent, and as well having read and listened to the statements of the vice-president and the executive vice-president of that same company who state categorically that there was no connection with an agent and that the Korean Electric Company negotiated directly with AECL for the sale of the CANDU reactor, can the minister say on what basis he makes the claim that the statements of these two top ranking officials of the Korean Electric Company are false, as he did in the House on Monday?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, based on the testimony of the senior officer who was present at the time. May I say I think the hon. lady is referring to another press report which appeared in a Toronto newspaper this morning. If that is the source of her information, I have been told that the two persons who gave that information were not members of the Korean Electric Company at the time so they did not have first-hand knowledge of the events at that time. If she wants to put further questions on this matter, though, I suggest to her that perhaps the right person to ask would be Mr. Campbell, the chairman of AECL, when he appears before the committee. I believe that the public accounts committee will be meeting next week and that is surely the place to pursue her inquiries.

Miss MacDonald: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Having put numerous questions to Mr. Campbell on this already with no response forthcoming, I should like to ask the minister this question. Given the fact that there has been very little information forthcoming to the public accounts committee, and vouchers to substantiate the \$15 million in payment of fees to Mr. Eisenberg have not been produced, and since both Eisenberg and Korean officials refuse to appear before the public accounts committee and we are now presented with two quite strikingly different accounts of Mr. Eisenberg's activities, is the minister satisfied that this brief report from the Canadian embassy in Seoul is sufficient to warrant the expenditure of some \$15 million of public moneys as an agent's fee? In other words, is this as far as the government is prepared to go to satisfy itself that this money of the Canadian taxpayer has not been misspent?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I want to help the hon. lady and I will do everything I can.

Miss MacDonald: Answer the question then.

Mr. Gillespie: We have gone to the source where we think the information is likely to be accurate. She is quoting from a newspaper report based on the supposed statements, the alleged statements, of two persons who were not even there at the time. If she is not satisfied with that information, let her put those questions to Mr. Campbell.

Miss MacDonald: I have.

[Miss MacDonald.]

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is supplementary. Will he not establish a revolutionary precedent in this House by admitting that he does not know what he is talking about and is only parroting the statements made to him by his advisers, who have a vested interest in concealing the facts on this issue?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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TRANSPORT**PROPOSED PAYMENT OF TRAVELLING COSTS OF CATCA AND CALPA EXECUTIVES**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Would the Minister of Transport shed a little light on his attitude respecting the invoicing of CALPA and CATCA in connection with trips made by executives of those two organizations to Ottawa about a year ago at the request of the minister's departmental advisers, who helped resolve the very serious air travel situation existing in this country at the time and indicate whether or not he is prepared to rescind or to cancel those invoices and arrange to have whatever billing is necessary paid for out of departmental accounts?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not yet prepared to comment on that question. I had not been aware until very recently that there was any dispute about it, and I have not received a report.

● (1450)

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I understand correctly the minister's comments on this matter that is now before him, to which he is directing some of his attention, that perhaps we will have an answer within a week?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I think that would be reasonable.

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POST OFFICE**TORONTO—MEASURES TO IMPROVE SERVICE—COMPLAINT OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General whom I trust will help to resolve the current confusion in the mail service in the Toronto area. Has the Postmaster General been made aware of the test conducted recently by Alderman Ying Hope on mail delivery in Toronto, where only five of 49 letters reached their destination overnight; some took over a week to deliver; and six letters never arrived at all? In view of the vital importance of a reliable speedy mail service in the Toronto area, will the minister launch a wide-scale investigation in an attempt to resolve the problem and give the city of Toronto the quality of mail service it urgently requires?