

Order Paper Questions

and allied forces eligible to receive the Memorial Cross award?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, before I answer the question I should like to point out that it was the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings who has shown an interest in the situation at Trenton. I believe I used the wrong constituency.

With respect to the question put to me by the hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador, let me say that certainly the representations he has made have been listened to. An order in council has been passed and a press statement will be released this afternoon announcing that widows and mothers of Newfoundland servicemen killed while serving in the allied forces during the wars will receive the Silver Cross award. An armed forces plane is going out for four widows, and, I believe, one of the mothers who will be in Ottawa for the Armistice Day ceremonies on November 11. We are proud and pleased to honour them as they deserve to be honoured.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order with respect to the question that was asked a short while ago by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. Holt). I realize that Your Honour felt the question was taking rather too much time, but as one who is also very familiar with the case of former RCMP constable Eugene Hale, it seems to me that an answer to the question should have been permitted. I hope that you will now permit the Solicitor General (Mr. Fox) or the Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs to give an answer to this quite important and very serious question.

Mr. Speaker: Or the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) or the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Lalonde). Order, please.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

FINANCE, TRADE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Second report of Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs—Mr. Cafik.

[Editor's Note: For text of above report, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

[Mr. Rompkey.]

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 69, 100 and 114.

I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed that the remaining questions shall stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Text]

RADIO-CANADA INTERNATIONAL

Question No. 69—Mr. Cossitt:

1. Did Mr. M. Mogiljansky, Head of the Russian section of Radio Canada International write a letter dated May 25, 1976, to Dr. F. Yaroshevsky of Toronto, a member of the Russian section of Radio Canada International, in which he quoted the following from a memo written by Mr. L. C. Chipman, Supervisor of East European Programming, as follows: "The Director has asked me to look into the charge reiterated by External Affairs that Yaroshevsky, apparently last fall, . . . reported on a demonstration of an anti-Soviet nature that had taken place in the city: the suggestion was that Yaroshevsky had concocted the demonstration so that he could report it" and, if so (a) what are the names and job designations of the persons in External Affairs who made such representations or charges to Radio Canada International and for what reason were they made (b) what is the name and description of the highest ranking person in External Affairs authorizing such representations or charges?

2. (a) How often since April 20, 1968, has External Affairs made representations to Radio Canada International on what it should or should not broadcast to the Soviet Union or to other Communist countries (b) have any such representations been made as a result of complaints received from representatives of the Soviet Union and, if so, what are all details and who made such representations?

3. Were the charges against Dr. Yaroshevsky subsequently proven false and (a) if so, has he received an apology from External Affairs (b) if not, for what reason?

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the Department of External Affairs as follows: 1. Yes, however, Dr. Yaroshevsky is not a member of the Russian section nor an employee of Radio Canada International, but a freelance contributor in Russian to the section's program. As for the charge against Dr. Yaroshevsky, it was not advanced by External Affairs but by a former RCI employee. No such charge has ever been made or reiterated by the Department of External Affairs. (a) and (b) Not applicable.

2. (a) We have no record of representations having been made by the Department to Radio Canada International on what it should or should not broadcast to the Soviet Union or to other communist countries. The Department is prepared to and does receive officials of RCI to discuss questions that may be of mutual interest. It does not, however, seek to influence RCI's programmes in any way whatsoever. (b) No such representations have been made. RCI is required to consult with the Department of External Affairs pursuant to Order in Council PC 1968-525, dated March 19, 1968 which directs the CBC "to provide, in consultation with the Department of External Affairs, an International Service. . .". The Department of External Affairs routinely informs Radio Canada International of any complaints about programs received by