

Oral Questions

government. Will the Acting Prime Minister at least assure the House that no action will be taken to create St. Catharines and its immediate area a bilingual district during the summer months while parliament is not in session, with the result that the matter cannot be debated?

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● (1500)

MULTICULTURALISM**INVESTIGATION OF SITUATION IN LONDON, ONTARIO—
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State, I should like to direct a question to his parliamentary secretary arising out of the continued notoriety and problems of the London, Ontario, office of the Secretary of State dealing with multiculturalism grants. Can the parliamentary secretary tell the House whether the Secretary of State is aware of the recent statement by the president of the London Folk Arts Council that the investigation being conducted by the Department of the Secretary of State into the activities of its own London office is "a farce" and "an insult to Londoners"? Is he satisfied that the inquiry can be complete and impartial when one of the officials involved in the inquiry has been appointed the next head of the London office of the Secretary of State and other officials involved in the investigation have spent little time if any in London but are content to investigate from their Toronto office?

Miss Coline Campbell (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I have not had occasion to speak to the Secretary of State since his return from London, but I will certainly bring the hon. member's representations to his attention.

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ELDORADO NUCLEAR LIMITED**REASON COMPANY FAILED TO OBEY ORDER TO DISCONTINUE
DUMPING RADIOACTIVE WASTE AT PORT GRANBY, ONTARIO**

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources which relates to the fact that the Atomic Energy Control Board has ordered Eldorado Nuclear Limited to stop disposing of its radioactive residue from its refining operations at a site near Port Granby, Ontario.

In view of the fact that this dumping has been going on for years and that Eldorado Nuclear Limited has had two extensions despite the growing concern about possible seepage of toxic material into Lake Ontario, I should like to ask the minister whether he has ordered Eldorado Nuclear Limited, a Crown corporation, to comply with the order of the Atomic Energy Control Board in order that it may be clear to all that public corporations are subject to the same controls of any regulatory body as are private companies?

[Mr. Cossitt.]

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I did not order Eldorado to comply for one very good reason. I believe the authority vested in the Atomic Energy Control Board is quite sufficient to force it to comply. Indeed, I think it might be most inappropriate if I as minister were to superimpose myself between the agency and Eldorado Nuclear Limited. I am quite confident that the powers of the Atomic Energy Control Board are sufficient to force compliance by Eldorado Nuclear Limited.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that both the Atomic Energy Control Board and Eldorado Nuclear Limited come under the minister's administrative responsibilities, I would ask the minister first of all why it has taken the control board so long to become aware of a situation that has been public knowledge for a long time and, secondly, why he has allowed Eldorado Nuclear Limited to stall on taking action to stop dumping the radioactive waste into a site close to Lake Ontario? The minister surely has some responsibility to see that these agencies under his responsibility act in accordance with public safety for the people of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Atomic Energy Control Board has acted with expedition. I think it has moved quickly. If the hon. member were to read the release dated July 7 and see the terms that have been set forth by the Atomic Energy Control Board in respect of Eldorado Nuclear Limited I think he would fully agree that this is not just a simple question of saying that Eldorado should clean up its act. There is very much more involved in terms of permanent storage, future storage and the cleaning up of the city as well. I believe the Atomic Energy Control Board has acted expeditiously.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

Second Report of Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections in both official languages—Mr. Blaker.

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

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[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**TABLING OF REPORT ON INCIDENT AT B.C. PENITENTIARY,
JUNE 9-11, 1975**

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 41(2), I wish to table, in both