

Oral Questions

last resort, if he finds himself with funds and wants to pay off his loan, should be entitled to do so without penalty.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Abbott: I hope to meet next Monday with the newly appointed president of the bank, Mr. Guy Lavigne, and have a chat with him about this subject and others. With regard to the extension of the term or otherwise, I might add that this is a matter which is very much related to the loan itself, to the risk of the borrower and to a number of other factors. I will be discussing these matters as well.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED CONTRADICTION BETWEEN STATEMENTS ON
TRADING RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question involves two departments of the federal government; therefore, I should like to put it to the Prime Minister unless, because of its nature, he would like to pass it to the Deputy Prime Minister. On December 19 the Secretary of State for External Affairs, speaking in this House, said this:

I am, therefore, announcing today that Canada is phasing out all its government-sponsored, commercially-supported activities in South Africa.

Later, the minister went on to say:

In addition to this phasing out of our commercial activities, we will also withdraw all Export Development Corporation government account support from any transactions relating to South Africa.

An official publication put out by the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, dated 1978, draws attention to the services available to businessmen around the world and says, in particular, that businessmen are urged to take advantage of the personalized government service available at its 88 posts around the world. Then the publication includes South Africa in the list of those 88 posts.

In view of that, I would like to ask the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister which policy prevails, the one announced by the Secretary of State for External Affairs which was approved in the House, or the one indicated in the official publication of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, obviously, the statement made in the House prevails. I am sure the hon. member knows that there are routes to take in order to get answers to questions of this kind. If he had given notice, we could have inquired whether or not this was a mistake in printing.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I will ignore the tone of that answer and ask the Prime Minister if he will take this matter up with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and ask him why his departmental publications do not conform to the government policy which has been confirmed today by the Prime Minister.

[Mr. Abbott.]

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, obviously, the answer is the same. It is very possible that the publication was in draft form, and perhaps even in print, before the statement was made. But the hon. gentleman knows something of the traditions in this House and, if he really wanted an answer rather than a debate, he would have sent us notice of that question and he would have had the answer.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

INVESTIGATION INTO SOURCES OF LEAKED INFORMATION

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, my question is reluctantly directed to the Solicitor General, because he may not want to answer; he may want to leave it to a more senior and competent minister, like the Deputy Prime Minister. However, my question relates to the attempt of the Solicitor General to find copies of documents which he has been fiercely looking for over the past few weeks.

In view of the article in the *Toronto Sun* of March 7, 1978, I wonder whether the minister has had the opportunity to request an interview by General Dare, himself, or a combination of both, with Peter Worthington, the editor in chief of the *Toronto Sun*. Has the minister initiated any investigation with respect to the source of information contained in the article to which I refer?

Mr. Paproski: Try Lubor Zink.

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I can understand the hon. gentleman's opening remarks and his sensitivity today, especially after the comments made by the Minister of Finance relating to his own success in the hon. gentleman's riding and relating to the ovation the minister received there.

Some hon. Members: Hear, Hear!

Mr. Blais: Having been in Saskatoon myself, I know that if I were the hon. gentleman I would be very concerned.

Mr. Andre: We are all concerned for our country with you guys in charge, you turkey.

Mr. Blais: I am sure the same goes for the Calgary area. I understand that our presence in that area—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the Solicitor General was intending to answer the question put by the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar.

Mr. Gillies: The minister is a disgrace.

Mr. Blais: We will also be going to Don Valley soon. The question put by the hon. member referred to certain allegations contained in publications in Toronto. As I indicated