

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, all necessary consultations will take place; as a matter of fact they are already under way.

CANADA COUNCIL

INQUIRY AS TO INCREASE OF CERTAIN SUBSIDIES

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State.

The Canada Council has just increased its grants in aid of publishing and University exchanges from \$119,300 to \$800,000 and has announced that other grants would be increased later. Would the minister tell us whether such increases are permissible under the austerity program?

Mr. Speaker: As this question appears controversial, I do not believe it is in order at the present time.

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

YUKON AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES— INQUIRY AS TO STATEMENT

Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon): My question is for the Minister of Justice. Can the minister tell the House whether it is his intention to make a statement with respect to the constitutional and administrative reform of the administration of justice in the Yukon and Northwest Territories?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I had not anticipated doing so, but I did today issue a release simultaneously in Ottawa, Yellowknife and Whitehorse expressing the willingness of the federal government to negotiate with the territorial governments of the Yukon and Northwest Territories toward a gradual transfer of the function of administration of justice, short of the office of the Attorney General, to the territorial governments, based on the premise that the transfer of these functions would also entail negotiation under the general financial agreements between the territories and the federal government.

Mr. Nielsen: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister has made this release and since tomorrow we will have a debate with respect to government policies concerning northern development and constitutional development generally, would the minister please make a statement on motions tomorrow as a kick-off for that debate?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Thanks for the leak.

Mr. Nielsen: Could the minister say, Mr. Speaker, whether he would be disposed to make such a statement tomorrow morning?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): The hon. member for Yukon, whom I am delighted to see here, wants to involve me in a statement on motions. It might well be that the proper place would be in the debate. I want to consult with my colleague the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Nielsen: I just wanted to make sure the minister would not high-tail it off to Harrison Hot Springs tomorrow.

CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HIRING OF EMPLOYEES FROM OVERSEAS

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. I ask the minister to look into the practice followed by Devco of hiring employees from overseas while there are qualified men in Cape Breton who can do the work and have been doing it for years.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I have not looked into that, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware of it. Has the hon. member any information to supply to me?

An hon. Member: You are the minister; wake up.

OIL

INQUIRY AS TO CONTINENTAL POLICY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, I directed a question to the Prime Minister with reference to a continental oil policy. I see the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is in the House. Perhaps I could direct the same question to him. Is the Canadian government now suggesting and advocating a continental oil policy and has the United States indicated that they too favour such a policy at this time?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Since the initiative of the Prime Minister on March 24 and 25 in his meeting with the President of the United States, we have been having mutual discussions with our United States counterparts