

Mr. Oberle: Mr. Speaker, since the Prime Minister is totally oblivious to a very serious matter which concerns the privileges of all hon. members of this House, will the Prime Minister cause further inquiries to be made in order to ascertain what is behind this question, and when he is fully briefed will he report to the House conclusively on this matter at the earliest possible moment?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I cannot give that undertaking. I repeat, I do not know what the member is talking about. There is obviously a lot of extra parliamentary opposition to the government, but that is normal in a democracy.

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TRADE

ALLEGED BOYCOTT OF ISRAELI FIRMS BY CROWN AGENCIES— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Prime Minister. In view of press reports indicating varying degrees of complicity by Canadian federal Crown agencies and corporations with the Arab boycott against Israel and Jewish individuals and firms, will the Prime Minister indicate whether an internal investigation has been made by his government to ascertain the truth or otherwise of these facts and, if not, why not?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have to refer this question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. We made a statement on this matter of the Arab boycott in the House, I believe a month and a half ago. If my memory is correct, it was supported by all opposition parties. I would have to see whether there is any departure from the application of that policy. I know of none.

Mr. Lawrence: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Prime Minister would then indicate whether, from his office or from the office of whichever minister of the Crown would be in charge of these Crown agencies and corporations, any definite instructions in respect of governmental policy have gone out forbidding them to take part in any such Arab boycott?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the statement made by the government a short while ago in the House applied, of course, to the government, its agencies and departments. I know that this government policy does not go as far as some people would like, but it is our policy and once again I will have to say that I am not aware of it not being applied totally by some aspect of government. So far as I know there is no specific allegation to that effect. If the hon. member has some facts he can convey to me, I would appreciate receiving them.

Oral Questions

COMMUNICATIONS

CABLEVISION—RELATIONSHIP OF POSTPONEMENT OF DELETION OF COMMERCIALS FROM UNITED STATES STATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Communications if the directive to the CRTC to change the commercial deletion policy is in any way related to the Prime Minister's pending visit to Washington?

[Translation]

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications): No, Mr. Speaker, as you know that decision was made some time ago and the government then reaffirmed its support for the commercial deletion policy established by the CRTC. But we thought that under the income tax legislation passed in the House, it was necessary and maybe timely, following the discussions and negotiations we had with the Americans, to re-examine the impact of that legislation and at the same time look into other ways of reaching the same goals.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED DURING PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, in view of the pending visit of the Prime Minister to Washington, does the Prime Minister intend to discuss specific topics of mutual interest and/or a list of irritants that have been discussed in this House from time to time, or is this visit just to be a sort of historical occasion on which the Prime Minister is hoping to get some coat-tail momentum from Mr. Carter?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I do not think Mr. Carter needs any momentum from me at this time.

Mr. Nowlan: You are the one who needs momentum.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL RELATIONS

MEETINGS BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER AND MR. LÉVESQUE

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, has the Prime Minister had any meetings with René Lévesque during the recess?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member is asking about government business, the answer is no.