

Oral Questions

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated to the hon. member previously, there will be no change made in the substance of that service without discussing it further with him and with the Chamber of Commerce of Sidney and Saanich, as I believe the area is known. There is no suggestion of removing the service.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If there are to be further questions, I suggest to the hon. member that they should be placed on the order paper.

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CANADA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

POLICY RESPECTING MOVING OF HEADQUARTERS TO VANCOUVER

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. On November 29, 1971, the right hon. gentleman announced in the House that the Canada Development Corporation would have its headquarters in Vancouver, British Columbia, within two years. Is that still the policy of the government, and when may we expect the corporation to have its headquarters in Vancouver?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the government has not changed its policy since I made the announcement in that regard.

Mr. Reynolds: Can the Prime Minister announce when the Canada Development Corporation will be moving its headquarters to Vancouver since there is such a short time between now and November and because it will mean, as the Prime Minister stated, the creation of hundreds of jobs for British Columbians?

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

SUGGESTED MOVING OF SOME SERVICES TO ALBERTA

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Yesterday the Prime Minister said he wanted to continue the policy of decentralizing government services. Is he giving any consideration to moving government services to or developing them in western Canada, specifically Alberta?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, such decentralization has already been brought about in the case of Alberta and of other provinces too.

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CRIMINAL CODE

REQUEST THAT ABORTION BE REMOVED

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. In

[Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich).]

view of the fact the Criminal Code requires that abortions be performed only in accredited or approved hospitals and with the sanction of a hospital board, and because in many areas the refusal of hospitals to establish such abortion boards creates a situation where other hospitals are overloaded or where women must travel to other provinces or other countries to seek an abortion or fall into the hands of illegal or incompetent practitioners, will the government consider removing abortion from the Criminal Code, thus making possible the establishment of clinics where legal abortions can be performed by competent physicians?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: The minister might be allowed to reply briefly to the hon. member's address.

• (1440)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker, we do not intend to take action to remove it from the Criminal Code.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: I should add that I do not see anything in the Criminal Code that requires any hospital or individual to participate in abortions.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): May I ask whether the minister will at least consider honouring the promise of his predecessor that parliament would be given an opportunity to debate this matter?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, several years have gone by since that time. In that interval a good deal of debate has occurred in the country and I am not sure whether any fruitful purpose would be served by a debate in the House at this time.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

SUGGESTED EASING OF RESTRICTIONS UNDER VETERANS LAND ACT BECAUSE OF INCREASED COST OF LAND AND HOUSING

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the fact the present provisions of the Veterans Land Act are not keeping pace with the vast increase in the cost of land and homes, will the minister advise what consideration is being given to relieving the restrictions being faced by veterans who hold qualification certificates?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this would be a matter of government policy. If any changes are to be made, they will be announced in due course.