

nature of the broader inquiry which may be required with regard to these matters.

● (1430)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am sure I can spot ten members rising on supplementary questions. All these hon. members cannot be recognized on the very first question, but perhaps we might have two or three further supplementaries. The hon. member for Yukon has a supplementary. He will be recognized, and so will the hon. member for Skeena. We will then try to complete the first round of questioning and return later to others who want to ask supplementaries on this subject.

Mr. Nielsen: I have one last supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the delays in previous inquiries into prisons by this government, would the Prime Minister assure the House that the report of this particular inquiry or commission will be submitted directly to the House rather than to the minister or to the government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give that assurance.

ESCAPES OF PRISONERS—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO COMPETENCE OF COMMISSIONER FAGUY

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Speaker. Inasmuch as there is obviously a need for two types of inquiries, one into the escapes a few days ago and the other into the general competency of the penitentiary service, will the Minister of Justice or the Solicitor General cause an inquiry to be undertaken into the competency of Commissioner Faguy, because that is where the problem seems to stem from?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I would not want to accept the premise of the hon. member's question, at least to the extent of prejudging the very issue of the inquiry and the many factors which may be at work in creating the difficult problems that exist. I think it would be a mistake to start with a prejudgment about the nature of the problem.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I will recognize the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe on a last supplementary question, after which we will continue the first round of questioning. I will recognize the hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta, the hon. member for Calgary North and others later on this subject.

[Translation]

ALLEGED ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PASSPORTS TO ESCAPED PRISONERS—REQUEST THAT NO NEW PASSPORTS BE GRANTED

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Considering that one or several escapees now being sought were issued special passports on the occasion of their most recent evasion, did the minister give specific instructions that new passports not be issued?

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I have not given any such instructions. The hon. gentleman will recall that when this was done in the past it was in order to help to apprehend the criminals, and they have been apprehended.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Is it the minister's intention to issue a passport if the police force asks for it?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will agree that the question asked in these terms is hypothetical.

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[English]

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION RESPECTING PUBLIC SERVANTS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Privy Council. He has informed us that he intends to present a bill dealing with conflict of interest of members of the House of Commons. I should like to ask him whether he is also in the process of preparing legislation to deal with the conflict of interest of public servants, particularly in the higher ranks?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the present plan is to produce, some time in this session, a general statement on the question of conflict of interest relating to Members of Parliament, ministers and public servants. The reason that legislation may be desirable for Members of Parliament and Senators is that this particular field has already been dealt with in various acts of parliament. The objective would be to reconcile and probably update some of these acts of parliament. At the moment, according to the present situation it would be intended to reflect the procedures with regard to conflict of interest in the case of public servants in the form of guidelines rather than legislation, but that is a tentative judgment at the moment.

ALLEGED HOLDING OF BELL CANADA SHARES BY MEMBER OF TRANSPORT COMMISSION

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question arising out of a statement by the chairman of the Canadian Transport Commission on a television program yesterday in which he indicated that there is a section in the National Transportation Act prohibiting members of the Canadian Transport Commission from having an interest in transportation or communication enterprises with which the CTC has to deal. May I ask the President of the Privy Council whether he is aware of the fact that one member at least, and perhaps more than one, of the Canadian Transport Commission has or has had and continues to have shares in Bell