

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, to the extent that any individual problems are brought to my attention we attempt to check into them. We find, on occasion, that cheques which have been sent out have been lost. There are bound to be some cases like that among the 100,000 applications which were dealt with under the program.

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CROWN CORPORATIONS**LAYING-OFF OF EMPLOYEES IN SPITE OF PROFIT MADE**

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct a question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the high unemployment rate in Quebec, does he know that one Crown corporation, COTC, has fired fourteen men at a time when the company is making \$20 million in net profit? Why is that policy allowed, and does the minister intend to change that situation with regard to Crown corporations?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think the specific question had better be addressed to a colleague of mine rather than to me. It is, of course, government policy generally to allow Crown corporations to exercise individual business judgment. As far as the Department of Manpower and Immigration is concerned, we continually offer our services to employees of Crown corporations in the same way as to others who are affected by a lay-off.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**SOUTH AFRICA—GOVERNMENT POLICY RESPECTING POSITION OF NON-WHITES**

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister say whether Lieutenant Colonel W. Kenneth Robinson, a Member of Parliament, was expressing government policy when he stated on a short summer visit to South Africa that—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that a question in those terms would not be in order. He cannot ask a representative of the government to indicate whether a member making a statement outside the House is enunciating government policy. That is clearly not in order.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps the hon. member might rephrase the question.

Mr. Skoberg: Is it government policy to suggest that South African non-whites should realize they are not yet ready for full political independence, as was indicated by Lieutenant Colonel W. Kenneth Robinson?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East.

[Mr. Southam.]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON CRASH OF AIR SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANE**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise to ask this question of the Minister of National Defence. It concerns the first serious accident involving an air search and rescue craft in about 20 years. Would the minister make a brief comment on whether the bodies are recoverable, and so on?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question. The tragic accident I think will serve as a reminder that the business of search and rescue is not only arduous and at times unexciting but also dangerous. I am sure the House will join me in expressing our sorrow to the bereaved families. The accident, as the hon. member indicated, is the first fatal accident involving a Canadian Armed Forces Dakota since 1951. A board of inquiry is under way at the moment. I cannot report at the moment on the possibility of recovering bodies, because, as the hon. member may well know, the crash was complete and there was heavy burning at the time.

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CAPE BRETON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**COURT ACTION BY MINER—SUGGESTED TREASURY BOARD REVIEW OF COMMITTEE REPORT TO ACHIEVE JUST SETTLEMENT**

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the Prime Minister indicated that he was interested in avoiding a court case between a miner and the Cape Breton Development Corporation. In view of that interest, would he follow it up by asking Treasury Board to review the final report of the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs in order to bring about a just settlement of this question?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of the question.

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MANPOWER**LOCAL INITIATIVES PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON FEDERAL WORK-INTENSIVE PROJECTS**

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. My question concerns the local initiatives program and particularly the federal work-intensive projects. Would the minister indicate when the people of Canada will be given more information on the projects that can be carried out by the departments of Public Works, National Defence, National Health and Welfare, Industry, Trade and Commerce and others?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I cannot put a specific timing on when further details will be announced but they will certainly be announced as specific decisions are made and