

Inquiries of the Ministry

having failed at that stage, are awaiting an appeal. It may be an unsatisfactory result in some ways, but we have felt it essential to give this general permission rather than to leave these people without the opportunity to work.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that there are people who have not reached that stage and have been waiting for as long as 12 months before their applications are considered and are unable to work during this period, would the government give consideration to permitting them to work until their applications are dealt with?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I think cases where the waiting period at that stage is anything like the length the hon. member suggests are very rare. I think it may remain the best policy to look at these cases individually rather than have a blanket rule.

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NATIONAL SECURITY**DRAFTING OF PERMANENT PUBLIC ORDER BILL—DISCUSSIONS WITH QUEBEC**

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Justice whether any instructions have been given for the drafting or preparation of a permanent public order bill, and whether such a bill is being discussed by the minister or his officials with the government or officials of the province of Quebec, as the Prime Minister of that province has said?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I want to apologize to the Leader of the Opposition for not being here at the opening of the House. The Department of Justice is considering what parliamentary action should be taken, as has already been stated to the House by the Prime Minister. I have had no discussions with the province of Quebec relating to such legislation or relating to whether or not there should be legislation.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure that I heard the minister. Did he say that he had or had not had such discussions?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I have not.

Mr. Stanfield: Then has the Minister of Justice any explanation to give as to why the Prime Minister of Quebec would say that such discussions have taken place?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands on a supplementary.

QUEBEC—COMPENSATION FOR THOSE ARRESTED AND RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE—RETURN OF FINGERPRINTS

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Justice whether

[Mr. Lang.]

he has received any reply to his letter to the Minister of Justice of Quebec regarding compensation for those persons who were arrested and then released, whether any compensation is going to be paid for their loss of employment, and whether the federal government is going to contribute to such compensation?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I think what I said to the House was that I was going to write the Attorney General of Quebec about the problem of returning fingerprints. I did not say I was going to be in written communication with him about the problem of compensation. What I did say and report to the House was that Mr. Choquette had said that questions of compensation were being referred to the protecteur du peuple or ombudsman in Quebec, and that the Attorney General of Quebec would consider what to do after he had received the recommendation of the ombudsman in individual cases.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Were any of the persons who were arrested but not charged fingerprinted and, if so, under what authority were they fingerprinted since no charge was laid against them?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I have already stated to the House, Mr. Speaker, that under the Identification of Criminals Act, as we interpret it, fingerprints can only be taken if a person has been charged. When I was Acting Solicitor General I advised the RCMP to return fingerprints to those police forces from which they had been received, and that has been done. That is all we can do in so far as the federal jurisdiction is concerned. In reply to the hon. member for Fundy-Royal, I said I would communicate with the Attorney General of Quebec to advise him officially of the action we had taken and of the opinion of Parliament. To date I have not received a reply to that letter.

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): On what authority were they taken in the first place?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT WITH WEST GERMANY ON EXCHANGE OF PENSION BENEFITS**

Mr. Keith Hymmen (Kitchener): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Can he advise the House when he anticipates that negotiations might be completed and an agreement signed between the Canadian government and the government of West Germany regarding the exchange of pension benefits?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Yes, Mr. Speaker. It is expected that the German delegation will come to Canada in March and that the whole matter will be settled and signed by the end of that month.