

*Inquiries of the Ministry***ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****CONTRAVENTION OF BILL OF RIGHTS BY HATE LEGISLATION**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, some weeks ago I asked the Minister of Justice whether following the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *The Queen v. Drybones* the law officers of the Crown had been asked to give their opinion as to the competence of Parliament to pass the hate literature bill and its constitutionality.

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice):** I said at that time, Mr. Speaker, that the law officers of the Crown of course had passed on that bill before the case was decided but that as a result of the right hon. member's question I referred it back to the Deputy Minister of Justice and the law officers of the Crown. They have again confirmed to me that there is nothing in the Canadian Bill of Rights, as interpreted by the *Drybones* decision, which in any way would invalidate the hate literature bill.

**CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY****THE ARCTIC—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT**

**Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will he either table a report or make a statement in the House as soon as possible on the results of the high-level discussions on the question of Arctic sovereignty that I understand are going on with the American government?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, there are no discussions going on at the present time with the American government about Arctic sovereignty. We did have a meeting last week with Mr. Alexis Johnson who brought some officials here with him to talk about this and other subjects. The next step in the procedure will be bringing legislation before this House.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE****AVAILABILITY OF DIABETIC FOODS ON PRESCRIPTION**

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the alarming statement made by a research doctor at the University of Wisconsin that saccharine used as an artificial sweetener and in diabetic foods may be cumulative

[Mr. Thompson.]

to cancer-causing levels, and in view of the removal of cyclamates within the next few months, would the minister consider making available diabetic foods on prescription?

**Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** That matter is under consideration, Mr. Speaker.

**LABOUR CONDITIONS****HAMILTON—ACTION TO REDUCE EFFECT OF LAY-OFFS BY NATIONAL STEEL CAR AND INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANIES**

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Hamilton West.

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It was a little easier getting your attention today when I did not stand. In any event, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour since the Minister of Manpower and Immigration is not in the House. It has to do with the lay-offs planned by the National Steel Car Company and International Harvester in Hamilton which apparently will affect some 600 skilled and unskilled workers. Is the minister aware of this, and has there been any consultation or dialogue between these companies and his department in an attempt to reduce the effects of the lay-offs by way of financial assistance, special employment arrangements or special retraining programs?

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman knows that these problems fall under the jurisdiction of the province of Ontario rather than under the federal government. In any event, I will bring the question to the attention of the Minister of Manpower and Immigration because it does not come under the Department of Labour. I do not know what correspondence, if any, he has received on the subject, but I certainly will bring it to his attention.

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS****PROTECTION AGAINST REFERRAL SALES**

**Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Have the abuses of the sales practice commonly known as referral sales been brought to the attention of the minister and, if so, what action has been taken by his department to protect consumers?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I take it