

Oral Questions

[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

METHODS TO BE ADOPTED TO PROTECT FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Drummond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications.

If need be, what specific means does the minister intend to use to reaffirm and prove clearly the intention of her department to comply with the legislation and the determination of this government to encourage the freedom of speech in Canada?

Hon. Jeanne Sauv  (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I think that the hon. member refers to the discussions that were held last weekend concerning Bill C-43. I must say that anybody reading carefully Bill C-43 can in no way construe it as a threat to the freedom of speech. As a matter of fact, this is the conclusion expressed by one of the experts invited to attend the Vigilance Day who is the vice-dean of the law faculty at the University of Montreal.

The parts of the bill which are questioned here are clauses 4(2) and 5(2): These clauses are intended to provide that the law does apply to the authority of the federal Parliament, and that the practice of exempting federal departments and provinces from paying for the costs involved in the operation of the microwave system is indeed maintained. That is the reason for these two clauses. Clauses 4(2) and 5(2) cannot be read without taking into consideration clause 9(2) which says very precisely and clearly that no provision in this legislation—none is none—can encroach upon the freedom of speech, among other things.

* * *

[English]

IMMIGRATION

CONFLICTING STATEMENTS REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST FIVE DRAGONS PRIOR TO GRANTING LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. I should like to refer to a reply he gave to an earlier question in which he stated that to his knowledge there were no charges pending against certain individuals from Hong Kong who were earlier granted landed immigrant status. I refer as well to a response given by the Minister of Justice yesterday reported at page 6646 of *Hansard* in which he said:

However, as I recall it, those individuals that were mentioned were legally landed knowing that there were royal commissions under way in Hong Kong which might result in reports being made against some of them—

I should like to ask the minister how he reconciles his statement today with what the Minister of Justice said yesterday. Is he or his department in the habit of granting landed immigrant status to individuals who were under investigation by a royal commission in another country?

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I gave the House the dates involved. Two of the four individuals entered in 1967 and another two in 1968 with the fifth arriving in 1973. That is a matter of record, and the particular commission was set up to look into corruption in 1974.

Miss MacDonald: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has the minister consulted with his colleague the Minister of Justice to find out which individuals that minister referred to when he said that certain individuals were admitted knowing a royal commission was underway which might result in their being named? Has he consulted with the Minister of Justice as to whom he was referring?

Mr. Cullen: No, I have not, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGATION PREMATURE DISCLOSURE OF FACTS ABOUT ORGANIZED CRIME DESTROYED CASE AGAINST INDIVIDUALS

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. It relates to the allegation he made outside the House yesterday that the premature disclosure of certain allegations or perhaps even certain evidence regarding some individuals allegedly involved in organized crime in this country and the buildup of the police case against these individuals, was absolutely destroyed because of that premature disclosure. So that we can properly evaluate the minister's charge and because it is all hanging out anyway, would he be good enough to detail for us what that evidence was, who the individuals were and what the charges were about?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member cares to remain for the rest of the afternoon, I understand there is a motion to be put forward by the opposition concerning the establishment of a royal commission inquiry into crime in Canada. I will be speaking during the course of that debate when I will make my views known to the House in complete detail, far more completely than I could at this moment.

ALLEGATION TORONTO WORLD CENTRE FOR PRODUCTION OF ILLICIT NARCOTICS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Can the minister provide any information to the House about the allegation made by the CBC of illegal production of narcotics in Toronto or indeed any other Canadian cities? In particular can he confirm that Toronto is a world centre for production of illicit drugs?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that much of the CBC documentary was based on successful police investigations. Of course, if I look at what the RCMP has been doing either independently or in