

Oral Questions

another Member who was elected 17 years ago, the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall):

That this House direct the Minister responsible for the Kent Commission to cease and desist in his efforts to establish a Press Council since the Government not only controls, but obviously already owns a press with a double-standard, which lets Liberals blame little folk as fall guys with nary a negative on a man who never carried his own luggage.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

NICARAGUA—REPORTED UNITED STATES BACKED RAIDS

Mr. Ted Miller (Nanaimo-Alberni): Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43. This past week the public has learned of U.S.-orchestrated clandestine raids on the Central American country of Nicaragua, launched from neighbouring Honduras and designed to destabilize the Nicaraguan Government. We have also learned that the escalation of these operations has increased the possibility of war in the region, and that considerably larger-scale U.S.-Honduran military manoeuvres are planned against Nicaragua in December.

In view of Canada's growing bilateral relationships in Latin America and desire for the restoration of political stability to the region, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton):

That this House call on the Secretary of State for External Affairs to provide the House with full information on the magnitude of American arms supplies, military and intelligence activities in Central America, and the Canadian Government's view of the dangers caused by these activities to the political stability and independence of all countries in that region.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

WINNIPEG LAY-OFFS

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Madam Speaker, I rise to move a motion under the provisions of Standing Order 43. The CPR, by recently laying off 1,100 workers at its shops in Winnipeg when there is plenty of rolling stock to repair, is certainly not demonstrating any faith in Canada and can hardly be said to be preparing to take advantage of future economic recovery as the Prime Minister via television encouraged everyone to do. Indeed, it appears that the CPR

does not really expect a recovery. Therefore, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow):

That the Government order the CPR for once to act like a decent corporate citizen and, failing that, that the CPR be nationalized and the CNR be renationalized so that finally we might have a railway system in this country which serves the public interest.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

CONFIDENCE AND TRUST OF PRIVATE SECTOR

Hon. Bill Jarvis (Perth): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. He will likely be aware that many of the more than 1.5 million Canadians who are jobless are either previous or prospective employees of that group of Canadian entrepreneurs whom we often call the risk takers, whether they be small businessmen, farmers, fishermen et cetera. I think the Deputy Prime Minister is also aware that within this group are those who are deterred from fulfilling their traditional job creating role by high interest rates, inflation or unemployment. Simply because at this moment they do not have sufficient trust or confidence in either the country or the Government to invest the pool of capital they have in a more traditional job creating sense, they are sitting on it.

Does the Deputy Prime Minister not agree that the necessary trust and confidence within that group cannot be restored by a Royal Commission which might report in three years from now, or in a Throne Speech that might be months away? If the Deputy Prime Minister does agree, first, with the problem and, second, with the solution, what immediate steps does the Government propose to take to restore that very necessary trust and confidence in this, the most dynamic segment of our society?

● (1415)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member is speaking as if the investor were operating in some sort of an abstract world. He is operating in a world economy that is presently characterized by very high inflation which has resulted in high unemployment and high interest rates. It has been my belief, and it has not changed since I ceased being Minister of Finance, that the basic pre-condition for the restoration of confidence and trust in the future of the Canadian economy is to make progress in the reduction of