

Oral Questions

● (1440)

THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

INFLATION—POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION FREEZING PRICES

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, in the Prime Minister's absence may I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. Considering Canada's constantly increasing inflation, does the government intend to back up its bid for price and wage guidelines with legislation which would force business to freeze prices or roll them back. If so, when can we expect the government's prices justification bill?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, that particular subject is under discussion in connection with the discussions that are going on between the government and various economic sectors.

Mr. Stanfield: So, something is going on.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF STRIKE OF NURSES—CONTINGENCY PLANS TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO REMOTE AREAS

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Health and Welfare I direct my question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Given the remote location of many northern nursing stations and the difficulty of supplying alternative services in the event of an early strike of federal nurses, a strike which could come as early as next week, will the minister indicate if a contingency plan has been developed to ensure that medical services will be available on a continuing basis to these remote northern communities.

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I will have to pursue this matter with my colleagues. I understand the majority of these nurses are in designated positions. I assume that would cover our nurses in the north.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

ADVERTISEMENT OF SAFEWAYS TRAVEL AGENCY CONCERNING PASSPORTS AND CITIZENSHIP—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State may I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. I have in my hand the April issue of a magazine called *Indo-Canadian*. On page 5 appears an advertisement by Safeways Travel Agency which is laid out in part as follows:

We Arrange Passport:—
Canadian—4 days.
Citizenship: Canadian—30 days.

Mr. McCleave: And all for \$5.

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

Mr. Friesen: Does that travel agency have a special arrangement with the government. If so, will the Acting Prime Minister tell the House what it is.

An hon. Member: A Liberal lawyer.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the question is, no, there is no such arrangement.

Mr. Friesen: Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. If there is not an arrangement with the government, will the minister investigate this travel agency, to see what kind of breach of advertising ethics is involved in this particular advertisement.

An hon. Member: Lay a charge.

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the officials of my department are already looking at this matter and, as I understand, they are exploring avenues to reimburse people who have been adversely affected. As soon as I have further details I will communicate with the hon. member.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF CHARGES BEING LAID AGAINST AUTHOR OF BOOK ENTITLED "BENDED ELBOW"

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Is the minister aware of the publication of the book entitled "Bended Elbow", by a resident of the Kenora area, one Eleanore Jacobson? Has the minister examined the distribution of this book from the point of view of laying charges under the existing hate literature legislation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Peter Kelly, the president of the Grand Council of Treaty III, gave me a copy of the book. We share his concern. We are looking into the matter, to see what action should be taken.

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POST OFFICE

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE MINISTER INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EMPLOYEES

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. In view of reservations being expressed publicly by representatives of both the Letter Carriers Union and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers with respect to the inadequacies of Treasury Board as the sole bargaining agent in the current sensitive contract negotiations, can the Postmaster General assure the House that he is continuing his involvement in the negotiations, so that a direct communications chan-