

Oral Questions

tion. I will have nothing to do with the selection of people recommended by the Canadian Public Health Association.

[English]

ARSENIC POLLUTION IN YELLOWKNIFE—GOVERNMENT ACTION IF PUBLIC SERVANTS CONCEALING FACTS

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, which I would like to direct to the Prime Minister. Would the right hon. Prime Minister be prepared to take corrective action if the task force study of the arsenic pollution problems in the Yellowknife area shows that federal health officials have been taking part in a cover-up of the true situation concerning arsenic levels in the Yellowknife area?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, of course.

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[English]

PERFORMING ARTS

ALLEGED DENIAL OF VISAS TO CERTAIN ARTISTS—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. By what authority does John Crompton of the Canada Council touring office use threats to withhold visas from the Osipov Balalaika Orchestra and Bolshoi dancers, as has been done by seeming blackmail of Columbia Artists of New York, if this and other distinguished entertainment groups come to Vancouver under the auspices of the respected 40-year old Vancouver company, Famous Artists; and would the Secretary of State determine and report upon how much money in grants and subsidies from the Canada Council, the Canada Council touring office and the Secretary of State has gone to build the physical assets and business of David Y. Louie since 1969; and is the government—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mrs. Holt: —through the Canada Council in competition with established small, independent business in Vancouver?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for drawing this to my attention.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Roberts: I mean that entirely seriously, Mr. Speaker. When she brought these facts or alleged facts to my attention this morning, I immediately asked my department to undertake an investigation and I will promptly ensure that the results of that investigation are forwarded to her. If the situation is as she described it I will be extremely concerned and anxious to take remedial action.

[Mr. Lalonde.]

• (1440)

ANTI-INFLATION PROGRAM

POSSIBILITY OF NEW MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, as Jean-Luc Pépin, Chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board, stated last week, wage and price controls have hurt business investment in Canada; and as the Minister of Finance stated today, speaking in Toronto: "There is no question that we need a progressive recovery in private investment if we are going to be able to provide adequately for job creation and rising productivity", and then added: "The control of profit margins has been no tonic for investment", will the Prime Minister indicate whether, based on these statements, we may expect new directives for the AIB which would be designed to encourage private investment in Canada with its resultant much needed job creation?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would have to take a look at the statements quoted by the hon. member. My information is that there is no hard evidence that the controls have in fact reduced the level of investment in Canada which there otherwise would have been, or that there has been any great misallocation of resources.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, would the Prime Minister indicate whether the Minister of Finance in his speech in Toronto today was reflecting government policy when he stated:

—that the start of the solution to most of the economic challenges we face lies in more capital investment . . . Enhancing the role of investment is going to be an important item on our agenda for 1977.

Is that government policy?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, that seems like a pretty sound statement. I cannot say what the rest of the speech was, but that part taken in isolation seems to make good sense to me.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

ALLEGED LIST OF PEOPLE FORMING EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister and relates to my earlier motion and to questions asked previously in the House. Is the Prime Minister in a position today to confirm that there has been a list or lists circulated among senior members of his Cabinet containing names which purport to form an extra parliamentary opposition to the government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have not the slightest idea what the hon. member is talking about.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: It has been a long recess.