

*Oral Questions**[Translation]*

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): I regret to see that the hon. member seems ill-informed, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I should ask him to verify his facts. As far as I know, the groups involved in the question of national unity did not express their opposition to the granting of federal funds. This is true for all groups throughout Canada which receive such funds, including those operating in Quebec. I do not know of groups or organizations in Quebec or elsewhere which raised objections in this regard. I would be very happy to hear the additional information the hon. member may have on this subject.

[English]

Mr. Ritchie: Does the minister feel that this grant can be justified in a moral sense and with due regard for a difficult democratic process?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Frankly, I think the hon. member is still more confused in his second question than in the first one. Funds are made available to all kinds of groups throughout Canada which are interested in an extremely important matter, namely national unity. Not only do I think that it is in accordance with the democratic process but also I hope with the wishes of all parties in the House which want this country to remain a united country, and I think it is the responsibility of the government of Canada to contribute to this matter in an extremely positive way.

[English]

Mr. Speaker, I am amazed that a member of the opposition would be scandalized by the fact that the federal government would contribute to groups working in the area of national unity.

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MANPOWER

PERMITS ISSUED TO FOREIGNERS TO WORK IN CANADA

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In view of the fact that a Japanese firm, Fujitsu, is working on a contract to instal certain communications equipment for Teleglobe, a Crown corporation, at its offices on Pharmacy Avenue in Toronto, and in view of the fact that this work is being done by Japanese installers employed by Teleglobe brought into Canada to do that work and that more are expected, and in view of the fact that the minister's department has issued special work permits to these people, can the minister tell the House why his government is issuing special work permits to foreign nations to do work which could be done by unemployed, skilled Canadian labour?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the particular case

[Mr. Ritchie.]

to which the hon. member refers. In the ordinary course of events, we issue work permits or visas to individuals who have particular or special skills. This often results in more work for Canadians, not less. Because the Japanese bring in this particular skill, others who participate in the assembly process have jobs that they would not have if the skill was not available.

Mr. Rodriguez: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I never heard such hogwash in all my life. In view of the fact that Teleglobe is a Crown corporation, and at the present time has placed this order with a Japanese company and has Japanese workers at this plant, and in view of the fact that we have Canadian installers and Canadian manufacturers who can make this equipment, can the minister tell the House why a Crown corporation placed an order with a foreign installer, with foreign help, when Canadian firms are available to provide the equipment and service?

Mr. Cullen: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member had a genuine interest in this particular problem, he could have given advance notice of a particular contract. He is more interested in bombast and rhetoric. I will check into it and find out the real answers, not those we have been hearing from the hon. member.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. JARVIS—ANSWERS GIVEN BY SOLICITOR GENERAL DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege which relates to the questions I put to the Solicitor General (Mr. Blais) at the beginning of the question period. Subsequently similar questions were put to him by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggett). These questions related to 24 monthly reports prepared for and delivered to the then solicitor general in 1971, he now being the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Goyer). As a result of the answers given by the Solicitor General one thing appears clear, that these reports are no longer available. At least they are not available according to the present Solicitor General.

● (1502)

In my first question regarding these documents I understood the Solicitor General to say that they had been destroyed in the normal course because they were dated more than three years ago. Subsequently, when questions were put by the hon. member for New Westminster, the Solicitor General said, and I thank him for saying so, that he may have inadvertently been misleading in replying to my first question in that he presumed they may have been destroyed because this was the normal course of events.

The issue in my question of privilege is whether the Solicitor General did inadvertently mislead the House in terms of the destruction of these documents. What is difficult for me, sir,