

Estimates

tions that are going on and which are of vital importance to the citizens of Atlantic Canada and the west coast, so we unanimously agreed to defer the meeting on Tuesday evening with the officials, with the expressed understanding given by the government officials that, upon conclusion of these negotiations, Mr. Cadieux and Mr. Clark would appear before our committee. It was with that understanding that we agreed to defer our hearings Tuesday evening.

● (1522)

My question to the minister is this: will he indicate when these meetings will be held, and will additional time be given to members of the House who are members of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry in order that there can be further examination, discussion, and debate of these urgent matters which apply to our boundary problems? If he cannot do that, can he guarantee us a special reference at a later date when discussions have been concluded?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the question of the hon. member I have described the process which has been followed, namely, to consult with the chairmen of the committees and, at their request, to bring forward this motion. I am not aware of what the deliberations have been of the committee to which the hon. member refers. I agree that it is an important committee and that there are important questions relating to fisheries and boundaries, but I would prefer to consider that matter with the chairman to see if a way can be devised to accommodate the needs of the committee.

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I will be brief, but I just wanted to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen) about the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration. As the minister is aware, that committee did not meet for a long time—until I used various parliamentary techniques to get the chairman to call a meeting. In the steering committee of that committee, as well as in the committee itself, I asked the chairman for an extension of time, but there was no quorum at the time and he said he would report back saying that the committee had decided that we did not need extra time. I challenged him on the fact that there was not a quorum and that no decision could be taken. I would therefore ask the minister whether the chairman of that committee reported that no decision was taken but that a view had been expressed that additional time should be given to the committee.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I do not have before me the precise reports received from each chairman. They were collated by a member of my staff. I cannot describe to the hon. member exactly what each chairman has requested. All I know is that this is the motion based upon consultation, and if the House wishes to give these committees further opportunity it can do so through this motion.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The House has heard the terms of the motion in the name of the Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), seconded by

[Mr. Crouse.]

Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

An hon. Member: On division.
Motion agreed to.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Roger Young (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 805, 806 and 1086. I ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Text]

MR. IGOR GOUZENKO

Question No. 805—**Mr. Cossitt:**

Is the government aware of the public statement by Mr. Igor Gouzenko carried by news media on Sunday, November 27, 1977 that he disclosed information to the government on nine Soviet espionage rings operating in Canada and that the government had only followed up by investigating one of these and, if so (a) is Mr. Gouzenko's information accurate (b) what are all the details (c) for what reason did the government fail to act (d) will the government investigate the statement and inform the House as to any action it intends to take in this connection?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): 1. Yes. (a) It is true that Mr. Gouzenko claims that there were several espionage rings operating in Canada, however, it is not true that the RCMP only pursued the investigation of one network. (b) It is not the policy of the government to comment publicly on individual police and security investigations. All information relative to Mr. Gouzenko's testimony and the documentation he brought with him on his defection which the government felt could be publicly disclosed is contained in the report of the royal commission (27 June 1946). (c) and (d) The government is satisfied that all leads flowing from Mr. Gouzenko's information have been exhaustively pursued and that no further action is required.

MACKENZIE KING DIARIES

Question No. 806—**Mr. Cossitt:**

Are any pages or sections of the Mackenzie King Diaries dealing with the Igor Gouzenko case missing from the Public Archives and, if so (a) what are the exact pages or sections (b) on what date did the government become aware they were missing (c) does anyone in government service or formerly in government service have knowledge of the contents of the missing pages or sections (d) has the government taken steps to investigate all aspects of the situation specifically as to what became of the missing pages or sections and (i) if so, what are all details of the results (ii) if not, for what reason?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): I am informed by the Public Archives Canada as follows: yes, there is a gap in the regular Mackenzie King diaries preserved in the Public Archives. (a) It is for the period from November 10, to