

*Inquiries of the Ministry*UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN  
ENVIRONMENT—POSSIBILITY OF CANCELLATION

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary arises from reports circulating that the proposed conference on the environment is in some difficulty. Has the government had any formal indication that this conference on the environment may not proceed?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, it is our expectation that it will be proceeding and that all nations will attend.

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[Translation]

## INDUSTRY

TEXTILES—REGULATIONS RESPECTING ELIGIBILITY  
FOR ASSISTANCE

**Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour.

Since Bill C-215 has been enacted more than a year ago, can the minister tell us why the regulations on the textile industry employees' eligibility for adjustment assistance are not yet available.

[English]

**Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, may I take that question as notice.

[Translation]

**Mr. Rondeau:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary.

I find it strange that the minister is not yet aware of that question, while recipients in my constituency are waiting—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. That is not a supplementary.

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[English]

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

POSSIBILITY OF INTERCEPTION WITHIN DEPARTMENTS  
OF PUBLIC SERVANTS' PERSONAL MAIL DIRECTED TO  
MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. Is the government aware of any practice or policy in government departments whereby personal and private mail directed to Members of Parliament from government employees, using the internal mailing facilities of the department, is intercepted and examined by departmental or any other security personnel to the extent of opening envelopes, examining the contents and, in the case of unsigned correspondence, subjecting the envelopes and contents to fingerprint and other identification tests?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any such practice. I will be happy to take my hon. friend's question as notice and

[Mr. Speaker.]

have it checked out to see whether there is any substance or basis to the serious matter he is raising.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Will the Acting Prime Minister consult with his colleagues, particularly with the Prime Minister, for the purpose of causing an investigation to be made of this matter in order to reassure government employees that they may communicate privately with their own member of parliament or any member of parliament in confidence and without fear, as is the right of every Canadian citizen?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I will be happy to raise the matter with the Prime Minister and to attempt to bring an answer back for the hon. member at a later date.

## POSSIBLE WIRETAPPING OF MEMBERS' TELEPHONES

**Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Has any attempt been made to check out what is happening to our telephones? Apparently they are clicking on and off and there appears to be suspicion that something unusual is going on. I hope it is not wiretapping. Would the minister assure the House that no effort is being made at this time to wiretap telephones in the House of Commons?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am absolutely certain that there is no effort on the part of any officer of the House or any member of the House to have the telephones of hon. members tapped in any way. I am sure my hon. friend can be satisfied that that is the case.

**Mr. Korchinski:** Mr. Speaker, I am quite satisfied that the minister's assurance is a valid one. However, I want him to check this out and ascertain whether there are any activities going on which might suggest to various members of the House or others outside the House that something is going on. I say that because there have been several strange noises on the line, strange clicks. The suspicions of some hon. members and members of their staffs have been aroused, and they doubt whether everything is in order.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, on the question of the telephone system, I am sure we would all want to be satisfied about it and bring about any inquiries that are necessary to indicate that telephones are not being interfered with in any way. In so far as strange noises are concerned, they are hard to control. We had a few of them yesterday and I am sorry to say I made a few myself.

**Mr. Erik Nielsen (Yukon):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It seems that some hon. members find the matter humorous but I consider it to be quite serious. When the minister determines whether or not inquiries are necessary, will he specifically direct those inquiries to the possibility of long-distance calls to and from members' constituencies being recorded through the long-distance facilities?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I take it that the hon. member is quite serious. If there is any possible sugges-