

Oral Questions

and practices which may or may not be acceptable to parliament and the Canadian people?

● (1440)

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this is entirely a matter for the committee. If hon. members on the other side of the House wish to pursue this question, I know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the president of CIDA will be glad to co-operate. It is really a question of motivation on the part of hon. members.

REQUEST FOR REFERENCE OF CIDA REPORT TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, we have been trying for a long time now to have this matter referred to the committee in order that it may be considered. I would like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs whether he will be referring the report of CIDA to this committee so that it may undertake this work and not be under the axe that is always there when estimates are given to it.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): If the hon. member examines the Standing Orders, he will realize that the committee can organize itself to deal with this matter quite fully and comprehensively, and that is the purpose of the estimates system and the system of standing committees. The purpose is to provide the House with an opportunity to examine their expenditures, their purposes, their objectives, and whether the programs are in accordance with government policy; otherwise, we ought to abandon the whole system of standing committees and estimate scrutiny.

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INDUSTRY

ELECTRONICS—LAY-OFFS OF WORKERS CAUSED BY IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN TELEVISION SETS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the very serious lay-offs of workers in the Canadian electrical industry caused by an influx of foreign television sets and components, and in view of the importance of the brief presented this morning by representatives of electrical unions to some officials of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, can the minister advise why there was not a single cabinet minister, parliamentary secretary or member of the Liberal caucus in attendance? Further, can the minister assure this House that he will be prepared to meet with the delegation which is still in Ottawa immediately after question period?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I think a very useful meeting lasting an hour and a half took place this morning between officials of my department and the delegation mentioned by the hon. member. I have been trying to arrange a meeting for this afternoon between myself, my colleagues and the

[Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich).]

same group of representatives from the industry. If that can be done of course the meeting will take place.

Mr. Fraser: Can the minister advise the House whether he has been in consultation with the Minister of Labour with a view to making sure that the Minister of Labour is also represented at this meeting because it involves lay-offs and unemployment of thousands and thousands of Canadian workers at this time?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Minister of Labour has heard the representation of the hon. member.

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HEALTH

RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION OF FOREIGN DOCTORS—
POSSIBILITY OF SPECIAL FEES FOR DOCTORS SERVING
OUTLYING AREAS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare, which arises from his meeting with the provincial ministers of health at which time they came to the ridiculous decision to restrict the immigration of foreign doctors. Many of the outlying areas are presently served by just that type of doctor, and we cannot obtain Canadian doctors. Was there any agreement at that meeting to have the provincial authorities set up a special schedule of fees which might entice not only foreign doctors but also Canadian doctors to outlying areas?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member indicated, his comment bears on the whole conference, and more particularly on the Ontario government which strongly recommended adopting a measure like this one. I need not remind the hon. member of the colour of the Ontario government.

With regard to immigration, we are not trying to suppress all immigration of foreign doctors to Canada; on the contrary, we are endeavouring to encourage their immigration to the areas and in the specialties where Canada needs them. As for their settling in various regions of Canada, this matter falls within provincial jurisdiction and the provinces are looking into it very carefully. Some provinces have already passed measure in this connection, but these have not always been as efficient as hoped for.

[English]

POSSIBLE TAX CONCESSIONS TO DOCTORS SERVING
OUTLYING AREAS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): I have a supplementary question regarding federal responsibility in this matter. Has the Minister of National Health and Welfare taken up with the Minister of Finance the question of possible tax concessions to doctors in those outlying northern areas in order to attract and retain them rather than to have the concentration of doctors in the larger, more convenient areas?