

PATENTS

REQUEST THAT ANNUAL REPORT OF CANADIAN PATENTS AND DEVELOPMENT LIMITED BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the President of the Treasury Board. On May 30 I asked the minister whether he would refer the annual report of Canadian Patents and Development Limited to the appropriate committee for consideration. He informed me he would like to discuss the matter first with the President of the Privy Council. I understand this may have been done. Perhaps he can inform us now whether he will let the annual report go to the appropriate committee.

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I have written the hon. gentleman a letter which he probably has not yet received or had a chance to read.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: The Post Office again.

Mr. Drury: I believe the procedure suggested in the letter would probably be more satisfactory to him.

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AGRICULTURE

INCREASE IN FARM COSTS—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION BY FOOD PRICES REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): My question is to the Minister of Agriculture and is supplementary to those about the increase in food prices. Bearing in mind these increases, and in view of the fact that farm input costs in the last three months went up by 6.1 per cent, will the minister undertake to demand that the Food Prices Review Board investigate the reason for this rise in farm costs?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I have the utmost confidence in the ability of the farm representative on this board to make sure this is done.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

SEIZURE OF CERTAIN PAINTINGS AND FILM, "LAST TANGO IN PARIS" BY POLICE—CONSIDERATION OF CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT TO RESTRICT SUCH ACTIVITIES

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the unwarranted seizure by police last week of two paintings and a print by well-known artists being displayed in a legitimate Toronto art gallery, and in view of the earlier seizure by police in Manitoba of the film "Last Tango in Paris" and the increasing use of the arbitrary power of seizure by police forces throughout Canada, has the minister considered introducing an amendment to the

Oral Questions

Criminal Code in order to restrict this type of activity by police and to restore the power to decide alleged cases of obscenity to the courts where it belongs?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1500)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the question of obscenity in the law is one of the matters which is being examined by the Law Reform Commission. However, let me say that I would not accept some of the adjectives used by the hon. member, particularly his use of the word "arbitrary", to describe the operation of the present law in the Criminal Code against obscenity, which was introduced when his party formed the government.

Mr. Atkey: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might ask a supplementary, then I will recognize the Leader of the Opposition, and then I shall have to call orders of the day.

Mr. Atkey: Is it the minister's position, then, that there will be no changes to the Criminal Code along these lines until we have the official report of the Law Reform Commission?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, once having referred a subject matter like this to the Law Reform Commission I would ordinarily take the position, without absolutely binding the government to it, of waiting for the final report of the commission.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

INQUIRY AS TO PUBLICATION OF DIRECTIVES ON BILINGUALISM BASED ON CERTAIN GUIDELINES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the President of the Treasury Board who indicated on December 14 that, following discussions, directives would be sent to departments in regard to the implementation of his guidelines. In view of his statement on April 12 that these consultations had been completed and that the directives to the departments would be tabled in the House when the minister spoke on the bilingualism resolution sponsored by the Prime Minister, I should like to ask the President of the Treasury Board why these directives have not been tabled in the House, as he indicated they would be?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, it was proposed to table them at the time they were printed and prepared for issue to all departments concerned, and this will be done.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.