

Inquiries of the Ministry

When it comes to the main body of the civil service, or what we in Ottawa commonly refer to as the civil service, Wednesday of this week would be the latest possible moment before salaried civil servants would be injured. But long before that, and increasingly each day, other persons are being affected, many of them being people working for the government as casual, prevailing rate employees, or employees of these smaller types of contractors.

FINANCE**PORTER COMMISSION REPORT—POSSIBILITY OF SECURITY EXCHANGE REGULATIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle): My question is addressed to the Minister of Finance. It arises from a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs that mutually satisfactory arrangements concerning the S.E.C. would be made between the two countries, that is, between Canada and the United States. Does this imply that the federal government is now planning to set up some form of regulatory machinery in relation to a national security commission as recommended by the Porter commission?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): The mutually satisfactory arrangements referred to in the communiqué were mutually satisfactory arrangements concerning the United States law. We took very strong exception to the extraterritoriality of that law, and we are hopeful that this aspect will be removed.

We did not bargain about our own regulations, but we did say that it is our intention to support the passage here and in the provinces of whatever legislative action we have to take in order to ensure that Canadian securities regulations are satisfactory for us.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**STEVEN TRUSCOTT—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. J. R. Byrne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): I should like to direct a question to the Solicitor General and ask him whether he will order an immediate investigation by royal commission into the bizarre circumstances surrounding the trial and conviction of 14 year old Steven Truscott for rape and murder, so shockingly revealed in a book released by publishers McClelland

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and Stewart over the week end, in order to rectify what appears to be an astounding example of a miscarriage of justice in the courts of Ontario—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This question should be placed on the order paper, if it is in order. The Chair will have to look at the question before it is allowed to go on the order paper.

Mr. Bell (Carleton): On a point of order. Would Your Honour at some stage in the future take under consideration the point of order which I raised earlier in relation to parliamentary secretaries making inquiries of members of the ministry?

Mr. Speaker: I might tell the hon. member for Carleton that the Chair has taken that question under consideration. The point has been raised before. It seemed to the Chair, after looking at the precedents and relating our practice to the practice in Britain, that there is an essential difference between the office of parliamentary secretaries here and the position of parliamentary secretaries in the British house, where they are junior ministers.

I suggest to the hon. member that there is nothing in our rules, nothing in our precedents and nothing in our practice, to prevent parliamentary secretaries from asking questions, though I realize there may be a question of propriety in certain instances. This is as far as the Chair can go at this time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Byrne: Are we, as parliamentary secretaries, to be deprived of our rights as sitting members of parliament?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the parliamentary secretary that he read the ruling I have just made when it is printed in *Hansard* tomorrow.

VETERANS AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR INCREASE IN WAR DISABILITY PENSIONS**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. K. H. More (Regina City): I wish to direct a question to the Prime Minister. It arises from the representations he received from the Royal Canadian Legion on November 25 and from other veterans' associations regarding the urgent need for an increase in war disability pensions. Has the