

Oral Questions

the minister give the worthy women and children of the Canadian airborne regiment a Christmas present and leave well enough alone until a new chief of staff is appointed six months' hence and a complete economic and military study is reviewed?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I really think this question is quite uncalled for, with the reference to the chief of the defence staff making decisions that are not in the best interests of the Canadian forces.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Danson: General Dextrase is one of the most distinguished soldiers that this country has ever produced.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Danson: He is respected by the armed forces of all nations, and civilians as well. I think the hon. gentleman will be very embarrassed when he reads *Hansard* and realizes what he has said.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Paproski: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister please give me an answer?

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CRIMINAL CODE

POSSIBILITY OF AMENDMENT OF ABORTION PROVISION—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the fact that some 50,000 Canadians lost their lives in 1976 by being aborted in hospitals, institutions whose only function should be the preservation of life and the alleviation of suffering, could the Prime Minister indicate whether amendments to the Criminal Code will be introduced by the government in 1977 which would restrict this abhorrent, immoral action to those rare cases where the life of the mother is seriously threatened and give the greatest gift of all, namely life, to another 50,000 Canadians in 1977?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, some time ago the government appointed a committee to look into the equitable and proper application of the law. I understand the report of this committee, headed by Mr. Badgely, is ready for tabling very soon now, and I think it is the intention of the Minister of Justice, probably when the House reconvenes, to table the report. I think at that point the government and the opposition parties can study it and assess in a more proper way the functioning of the present law before discussing any changes.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, may I put a short supplementary question to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that in his office he is the protector of every Canadian, could we have his

[Mr. Paproski.]

assurance that he will do everything in his power to protect those people who can least protect themselves?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR AID TO WAR VICTIMS OF LEBANON

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Matane): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the head of the government.

Now that peace has been restored in Lebanon, considering that this country has been literally destroyed over the past two years, and considering also the size of the Canadian community of Lebanese origin, could the head of the government issue instructions so that, on humanitarian grounds, the various federal agencies and institutions may help Lebanon and participate in the reconstruction of that country, not only financially, but also through the distribution of prostheses, medicine, food and wheat? Could the government provide considerable help in addition to the \$150,000 given to Red Cross international over a year ago?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the hon. member for his question. He has advised me on a number of occasions on the Lebanese problem and the steps the government should take to assist these unfortunate people. The hon. member is aware that we have already taken steps in the area of monetary and immigration assistance, and I feel that his suggestions today certainly deserve being looked into most attentively. I promise to bring them to the attention of the ministers involved and to reply to him later next year.

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[English]

ENERGY

PROPOSAL TO DRILL FOR URANIUM ON LAKE WAHNAPIITAE—
REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS PRIOR TO GRANTING LICENCE

Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I spoke to the minister about this matter before the question period. Is the minister aware of the immediate plans of certain corporations and individuals to do extensive exploration by drilling for uranium on Lake Wahnapiitae in the Sudbury district, which lake supplies the water for a great many people in the area?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. So far as I have been able to determine in the very few minutes available to me, there are no plans of which I am aware. I think an application was made at one time to the Ontario government and it was turned down. I