

Oral Questions

An hon. Member: Do you want a towel?

An hon. Member: Poor Otto.

Mr. Lang: The right hon. gentleman must not have been here at the beginning of the question period when I said to the Leader of the Opposition, I believe, when he was quoting from that particular newspaper report to which the right hon. gentleman has also referred, that it was not a statement of my view, but that I stand by the words I used in this House with regard to what deserves to be investigated; what needs to be investigated is the way in which medical committees can and will be willing to perform their obligations throughout the country, and therefore, whether the law as written in 1969 can in fact be sustained, having regard to their willingness or the willingness indeed of provincial attorneys general in that it is a very serious question. That is straightforward. I hope the right hon. gentleman sees no circumlocution in that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, by the degree of applause I think it will be generally noted that the Liberal Party is opposed to this whole situation.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: You can't have it both ways, Otto.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are a number of other hon. members who are anxious to use the remaining minutes for questions. I wonder if the right hon. gentleman might be permitted to finish his question.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I was interpreting the applause which was given by the Liberal Party and by the government. I was here from the beginning. I was here in 1969.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Diefenbaker: If hon. members opposite think that this clack will keep me down, they are mistaken.

What is the nature of this investigation to be? Who will be involved? When will it start? How long will the inquiry sit, or is it just a simple means by the minister to get around to deciding the question, thereby postponing indefinitely the consideration of this great social problem?

Mr. Lang: I will say again that if the right hon. gentleman was here, he must not have been listening to the responses because I did indicate that. If he will refer to my answer yesterday, he will see that the decision of whether, and the nature of, the inquiry is not yet taken, so I am obviously unable to answer the questions which are the very ones I said would be announced in the House after that decision is taken.

An hon. Member: When?

Mr. Lang: It is an important question. To my mind it will indeed deserve very careful consideration, and not the kind of politicizing of both sides of the question which we are apt to get from hon. members opposite right now.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Lang.]

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE HERITAGE OF CANADA

EFFICIENCY OF SOCIETY'S PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Secretary of State I will address my question to his parliamentary secretary. Both through the medium of the question period and in a verbal report from consumer affairs in a tabled report of the Secretary of State dealing with the Society for the Study of the Heritage of Canada, the inference has been that the society's program for senior citizens was a costly and inefficient venture. Yet in the adjournment debate of May 26 the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development stated that it was financially efficient. Would the parliamentary secretary inform the House which statement is accurate, that of the minister or that of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development?

Mr. Gustave Blouin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take this question as notice.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ADEQUACY OF INVESTIGATION BY FORCE OF CIA ACTIVITIES IN CANADA

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, my question was intended for the Solicitor General, but in his absence I will ask the Minister of Justice who is, I believe, the Acting Solicitor General. In view of the fact that some of the alleged activities of the CIA in Canada may not, in a strict sense, be illegal although nonetheless pose a serious threat to Canadian sovereignty, and in view of the fact that the information the CIA passes on to similar Canadian agencies does not appear to include information on former agents of the CIA, as the Quang case makes clear, does the minister consider an investigation by the RCMP—in essence, an in-house inquiry—to be adequate? Will the minister outline the terms of reference of the investigation as presently constituted?

● (1450)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Acting Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have noted the Solicitor General's statement, as has the hon. member, that he will investigate any allegations in regard to the improper activities of the CIA in Canada. I would hope that he would conclude that an investigation by the police would be the appropriate starting point.

USE OF UNITED STATES EMBASSY BY FORCE IN CHECKING BACKGROUND OF FEDERAL EMPLOYEES WHO WORKED IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It has recently come to my attention that one of the procedures used to check the reliability of Canadian citizens who have applied for employment with