

● (1150)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CIA FUNDING OF BRAINWASHING EXPERIMENT

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. It concerns the nine Canadians who were part of the brainwashing experiments in the late 1950s.

Florence Langleben, who was one of the nine, died on January 2, 1986. Her son, Wayne, lives in my riding of Don Valley East. He would like to know when the Government will release all the facts on this sordid experiment, and especially the facts about the CIA funding of this terrible experiment.

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, when we came into office this problem came to our attention. We have taken action on the problem.

Mr. Rodriguez: With the speed of a snail.

Mr. Crosbie: Some months ago I appointed an independent outside counsel, in the person of Mr. George Cooper of Halifax.

Mr. Rodriguez: Is this a crab following a dead cod?

Mr. Crosbie: If the hon. gentleman wants to answer this question, he can. Perhaps he knows more about it than I do.

Mr. Broadbent: Probably.

Mr. Crosbie: That may be. But he has certainly not achieved anything in that connection for a number of years now.

Mr. Heap: Neither have you.

Mr. Crosbie: Why does the wise one not wait and listen to see?

Mr. Heap: We have waited a long time.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. None of this back and forth. It is not getting the question answered.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of great importance to certain people. Why there should be these cheap interjections, I do not know.

Mr. George Cooper was appointed by me to act as an independent counsel to review in detail any connection the Government of Canada or any of its agencies had with respect to these certainly unfortunate events of some years ago. He is expected to conclude his report shortly, and the Government will then consider his report to see whether the Government has any responsibility whatever in connection with this matter.

I have no doubt that, after we receive the report and have had some time to consider it, we will make a statement, if not make the report public.

Oral Questions

In the meantime, two members of the Department of Justice visited Washington at the beginning of this week—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Hon. Minister knows I cannot let him go on. He may want to complete this answer under Statements.

Miss MacDonald: But it is very important.

Mr. Speaker: All the questions and answers are important. The Hon. Member for Westmorland-Kent.

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[Translation]

RAILWAYS

FUTURE OF CN SHOPS AT MONCTON

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Hon. Minister of Transport.

[English]

My question relates to a declaration made by the Minister's press secretary who said that maintaining the CN shops in Moncton from a purely business standpoint would be impractical and a money loser.

Is the Minister using his press aide as a messenger to the people of Moncton? Is he preparing them for bad news?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. I think the Hon. Member knows that this is a matter that we take very seriously. There are several options being considered. An evaluation is being undertaken. I share with the Hon. Member the concern of the workers involved, and I can also assure the Hon. Member that we are trying to work out a satisfactory and positive solution to this whole difficult problem.

AIDE'S STATEMENT

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, does the Minister believe that such a statement from a ministerial aide is good publicity for the CN shops, especially when CN is looking at different arrangements to keep the shops open and protect the 1,200 jobs?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, in a very emotional debate, such as that which is taking place on this very important issue, a lot of statements are made, some of which vary in degrees of accuracy. I think the Hon. Member himself has, from time to time, tended to overstate the case. I hope that he will just be patient and work with us toward working out a satisfactory solution.