

Oral Questions

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As to the first part of the question, I do know that Mr. Bell is working in the Prime Minister's office. I do not know under what terms or under what arrangements. I will inquire. I will inquire, also, whether he has any other occupations. From then on, we shall see whether the second question is a hypothetical one—whether it has any foundation.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

ALLEGED REORGANIZATION OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE—
POSSIBLE INCREASE IN STAFF OR CHANGE IN ROLE OF
OFFICE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Would the Prime Minister tell the House whether the current reorganization of his office will result in an increase in the staff and whether or not his office will now assume a new policy role outside that which is traditional under our parliamentary system, that of the Privy Council or the cabinet?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): As to the second part of the question, the answer is no. As to the first part of the question, I can tell the hon. member that there is no reorganization currently going on. As to the numbers of staff involved, the hon. member will get that information from the estimates.

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ENERGY

POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENRICHED URANIUM PLANT IN
JAMES BAY AREA—CONSULTATION WITH QUEBEC ON EXPORT
OF PRODUCT

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Prime Minister. In view of the fact that uranium may be exported only if a permit is issued by the Atomic Energy Control Board, and bearing in mind the right hon. gentleman's remarks on the subject while he was in Paris, is the Prime Minister aware of any discussions which will be taking place next week in Paris between the premier of Quebec and the premier of France with regard to the establishment of an enriched uranium plant in the James Bay area? Can he tell us whether there have been any preliminary discussions between the federal government or any of its agencies and the Province of Quebec with respect to the export of the product of such a plant?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I do not know with whom the premier will be speaking but I am fairly certain he will be dealing with the subject of the hon. member's question. I believe I made the posture of the Canadian government quite clear when I was speaking to the French authorities, not only with regard to export but with regard to other aspects which concern us. At that time we set up a task force on energy whose purpose was to continue informing the French about the federal posi-

[Mr. McGrath.]

tion. I believe they held a meeting some days ago to inform the French of our position.

As far as discussions with Quebec are concerned, I cannot speak for other levels of the cabinet or of the civil service, but I personally spoke to the premier of Quebec and reminded him of our position on these matters.

EXPORT OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL—REQUEST FOR POLICY
STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): My question, too, is directed to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister tell us when the House will be advised concerning the nuclear safeguard policy which apparently has been considered by the cabinet. It would seem we are now holding up 12 uranium contracts pending a report by the cabinet to this House. Can the right hon. gentleman tell us when we can expect to find out whether Canada is to continue to sell Candu reactors abroad and continue to export uranium or not? There are a great many people in this country who would like to know.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): It is true that following the nuclear explosion in India the government decided to increase the safeguards which are related to the export of fissionable material. It is my impression that this decision was made known in a public statement. I will check where and when it was made. But whether it was made public or not, it is the policy of the federal government to increase the stringency of the safeguards and the matter is again before cabinet at the present time. If no statement has been made I shall ensure that a statement is made in due course so that the country and the world may know what our policies are in this regard.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

INQUIRY AS TO GUIDELINES IN EFFECT

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. It arises out of his comment concerning my point of order with regard to starred question 788. As that question dealt with conflict of interest and was really a summation of the high points of Prime Minister Pearson's guidelines for his cabinet given on November 30, 1964, could the Prime Minister tell us, now that he says that his guidelines are confined simply to the statement of July 18 and September 18, whether we are correct in assuming that those guidelines, which are much narrower than Prime Minister Pearson's, are now the guidelines in effect?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I would have to refer to the text of my statement in the House, but my recollection is that rather than departing from Mr. Pearson's guidelines I based my statement on those guidelines—that, indeed, I gave more precision and more depth to the guidelines he had established; I believe the latter were more general in some instances, while applying to particular cases in others. The difference is, of course, that ministers are now under a specific obligation to declare