

Oral Questions

Canada comes under the Department of Immigration. We have brought this problem to the attention of this department where we were advised that the utmost would be done to prevent their entering Canada.

May I take this opportunity to thank the hon. member for claiming, as I do, that Canadian problems may be solved better by Canadians than by foreigners.

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[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**REQUEST THAT PENSIONS BE TIED TO INCREASES IN COST OF LIVING**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that most pensions that come under the responsibility of the federal government either are, or soon will be, escalated by the full percentage increase in the cost of living, would the minister seek to prevail upon Canadian National Railways so that CN pensions can also be escalated not just by 2 per cent a year but by the full percentage increase in the cost of living?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman knows very well that this is something that is negotiated between the unions and the railway company. I in fact supported the original demand that was made when I was a member of the committee before it became the negotiating committee. Now the figures are being revised by an inquiry officer. I think Mr. Deutsch is the one looking into the data that have been supplied by the companies, so let us wait and see what the result will be.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister's answer, but in view of the fact that employees who have already retired are not covered under any such collective agreements, and in view of the fact that Dr. Deutsch is not studying the pensions of those already retired, would the minister again consider the plea that I make to him to make these representations to Canadian National?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, when I was in the labour movement as a unionist we were interested in former union members and it was the union that made representations, not members of the House of Commons or members of any other legislative assembly.

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LABOUR RELATIONS**SETTLEMENT OF RAILWAY STRIKE—INQUIRY AS TO REPORT**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary question may I ask the Minister of Labour when we can expect a report from Judge Hall in connection with the negotiations settling the rail strike?

[Mr. Chrétien.]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): I cannot say precisely, Mr. Speaker. As the hon. member knows, this is a complicated area. Judge Hall has been meeting constantly and steadily with the parties and is working as quickly as he can to get his report out. I cannot tell the hon. member precisely, but perhaps within a few days I will have information in rather more precise terms as to when this report will be available.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO CHINA—REACTION TO ALLEGED VERBAL ATTACK ON ISRAEL DURING OFFICIAL BANQUET**

Mr. Barnett J. Danson (York North): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Acting Prime Minister whether the Prime Minister, at a recent official banquet in China, simply chose to ignore a vicious verbal attack on the state of Israel by Premier Chou En-lai, as reported in the media?

Mr. Speaker: Perhaps we might assume that the question has been asked directly rather than asking the Acting Prime Minister to confirm or deny a press report. The Chair is prepared to assume that the question has been asked directly.

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, when I heard this story I immediately transmitted a message to Peking and found that it was completely without foundation. No such attack was made upon Israel in the presence of the Prime Minister.

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BUGGING AND WIRETAPPING**GOVERNMENT POSITION ON BILL IN LIGHT OF WATERGATE REVELATIONS**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, the House showed today its reaction to bugging, even though in no way was a member of the press gallery connected therewith. None the less, what Watergate has revealed is the danger of empowering a small cabal to bug even for a few hours. Therefore I would ask the Minister of Justice this question. Having regard to the revelations in Washington, does he not now feel that that portion of the bill now before the committee which permits emergency bugging should be withdrawn?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the so-called emergency provisions which allow for the use of electronic devices to detect serious criminal offences when a judge is not available are, of course, similar to what some of the colleagues of the right hon. gentleman would have made the general rule in regard to the whole use of such electronic devices. Since the responsibility of the Attorney General or the Solicitor General is involved in those cases and was the source sought by some of the hon. member's colleagues as the only responsible source, the government felt, in contrast, that as a general rule a judge ought to approve the use of any of these