

hospital complete with surgical equipment. We have taken every possible care of Canadian personnel in this force.

REASON FOR DELAY IN TREATMENT OF TWO INJURED SOLDIERS AND RESIGNATION OF SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): If this planning was so perfect as the minister claims, why was it necessary for these two men who were hurt to wait six hours before receiving treatment in Egypt, and why is it that the senior medical officer resigned in disgust at the inadequacies of these co-called wonderful services that the minister says were planned? Answer that one.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): The answer is that Corporal Weir and Corporal Berry, who were in an unfortunate automobile accident, were in downtown Cairo and were first treated in a local hospital. That is what I indicated in my first answer. The criticism was not related to the Canadian medical services but to the initial treatment of the two soldiers. They were then moved by a Canadian medical officer to a U.N. approved hospital where they received full and adequate treatment. But the Canadian medical services were not involved in this incident.

Mr. Hees: You still have not answered why that medical officer resigned.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hees: He has no answer, Mr. Speaker.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS

COST OF EYEGLASSES—POSSIBLE ENCOURAGEMENT OF COMPETITION FROM CHINA TO REDUCE COST

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the finding of the Saskatchewan government that Canadian consumers are paying two to three times as much as they need to for eyeglasses, the cost of which runs as high as \$38, and in view of the fact China has quoted a price on eyeglasses with standard plastic frames of less than \$10 a pair, will the minister look into ways and means of encouraging Chinese competition as a means of protecting the Canadian consumer?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to do so.

Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, owing to the noise in the House I did not hear the response of the minister, but I will ask alternatively, will he look into and consider ways and means of dissuading Canadian eyeglasses frame makers from their present policy of costly built-in obsolescence?

Mr. Gray: I will be happy to examine what can be done in that regard.

Oral Questions
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

IMPRISONMENT OF THOMAS SERJEANT IN TANZANIA—DATE OF NOTIFICATION TO MEMBERS OF FAMILY

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the hon. member for St. John's West asked me a question about the time when the brother of Mr. Serjeant was notified. He said at the end of his supplementary question to me that this is a very serious matter and he thought the minister should explain it. In fact, Mr. Serjeant has two brothers. Our High Commissioner in Dar-es-Salaam was specifically asked to contact the brother who lives in England, which we did by telegram on October 19 and in person on October 22. However, since Mr. Serjeant expressly omitted any reference to the other members of his family, we did not call them until some time later. This is our usual practice since in some cases a general alert could lead to unnecessary embarrassment.

[Later:]

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in connection with the statement made a few moments ago by the Secretary of State for External Affairs concerning the reason the Serjeant family was not advised of the imprisonment of Thomas Serjeant. It is obvious that the record should be put straight because the minister's officials are telling him one thing and they have told the Serjeant family something else. The reason given the mother when she inquired why she was not informed was that they were unable to ascertain the correct spelling of her name.

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that Mr. Serjeant's brother was contacted by telegram and in person on the dates I mentioned, so that the family was notified as requested by Mr. Serjeant himself.

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● (1210)

LABOUR CONDITIONS

RAILWAY ARBITRATION HEARINGS—ADJOURNMENT AWAITING REPORT OF DR. DEUTSCH ON PENSIONS—DATE REPORT AVAILABLE

Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, I had hoped that the Minister of Labour would be in the House today, but in his absence I direct my question to the Minister of Transport. Have the railway arbitration hearings been adjourned *sine die* to await the report of Dr. John Deutsch who is investigating the matter of pension settlement?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will take this question as notice and ask the Minister of Labour to answer on Monday.

Mr. Thomas (Moncton): Will the minister also find out when Dr. Deutsch's report is going to be available to the arbitrator so that he can complete his hearings and file his report?