

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: Why all this hypocrisy? It may be just rhetoric and I do not take it seriously.

Mr. Wilson: Mr. Speaker, I would point out to the Prime Minister that all the candidates for the leadership campaign last year resigned from their positions in the shadow Cabinet for the duration of the campaign.

Mr. Lawrence: Including the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Trudeau: But did they use staff?

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**AID TO DEVCO COAL MINE—INSTALLATION OF FIRE DOORS**

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and it relates to the support that the Government announced last week for the Devco mine and the closure of No. 26 Colliery, an announcement which we on this side of the House welcome. However, I am sure that the Minister is aware of the concerns that have been expressed regarding the safety of the mine, and of the hope that has been expressed that this type of disaster will not recur.

● (1440)

Since Colliery No. 26 experienced a series of fires over the years, some of which caused fatalities, there have been recommendations for the installation of fire doors in the mines to control fires. Would the Minister say whether he has ascertained why these fire doors were not installed in No. 26 Colliery? And would he tell us whether it will be a requirement that fire doors be installed now in all Devco operations?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should have directed his question to the minister who, through his department, is responsible for security. I can tell him, however, that some of my officials are now carrying out an investigation on the spot and discussing the situation with representatives of both the company and the union.

[English]

MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, I direct my supplementary question to the same Minister. Mr. Webby Murray, a retired CLC safety inspector, is quoted as saying:

There's no doubt in my mind that if the belt lines (underground conveyors which transport the coal) had been properly cleaned and serviced and stone-dusted, (which reduces the likelihood of sparks igniting), 26 would not have had that fire.

Is the Minister, during the course of his investigations, looking into this allegation, and others like it, as part of the

comprehensive review of corporate operations which was announced by the Minister last week?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, my officials, while carrying out their investigation, will certainly check whether this statement and others are true.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY**DATE OF PRESENTATION OF MOTION TO ESTABLISH TASK FORCE ON CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS**

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Sherbrooke): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Leader of the Government. I would like to know whether he could tell us when the motion providing for the setting up of a committee to consider the definition of a charitable organization under the terms of the Income Tax Act will be introduced in the House?

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, this motion is already on the Order Paper. I am now negotiating with the Opposition hoping to get it approved as quickly as possible and I expect an answer to my proposal within the next few days.

I can therefore assure the Hon. Member that, as far as the Government is concerned, we want this motion to be approved as soon as possible. However, there are not many days left before the summer adjournment and we will try to reach an agreement with the Opposition to debate and approve this motion in the very near future unless the conditions laid down by the Opposition are so exaggerated that we cannot reasonably accept them as this would mean going against the other priorities of the Government.

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[English]

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**REGULATION OF LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICE**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Communications. The Minister knows that Canadians are proud of the high quality and reasonable cost of their telephone service. I am sure he also knows that, as a result of deregulation of the telephone industry in the United States, local rates for U.S. residents and small business people have doubled and tripled. The CRTC is now going to consider an application by CN-CP Telecommunications to be permitted to compete with Bell Telephone for long distance telephone service. If its application is approved it will soon mean substantial increases in the monthly rates paid by consumers.