

Oral Questions

will be greater than the proposed cutbacks in the budget of the chaplaincy service?

Mr. Blais: The point is very well taken, Mr. Speaker. I have undertaken to provide to the hon. lady the information she has requested with regard to the terms of reference. I expect they will be ready within a short period of time. It is, of course, a priority.

The study will not be addressed solely to the question of staffing; it will also be addressed to the function of the chaplaincy service. It is a timely study, and therefore the hon. lady should not leave the impression that somehow the additional study will relate only to the question of staffing. If that were the case, of course, she would be quite right that the money spent would far surpass the saving we had originally envisaged in the cutbacks in the chaplaincy service.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**PROJECT ON HOME SECURITY AND SAFETY**

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. Did the Solicitor General authorize a project whereby house to house surveys are being conducted in many Canadian communities, designed to elicit information on home security and safety and, if so, will he explain the purpose and extent of such project and where the information will be stored?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the ministry for which I am responsible has been engaged for some time in a large number of programs dealing with crime prevention. As the hon. gentleman fully recognizes, we know that active policing is not sufficient and we have to provide information to the Canadian public so that they themselves can prevent crime by taking such security measures as are needed in order to reduce the level of crime.

We have been engaged in that program for some time, it is an ongoing program, and we have a number of contracts with volunteer groups and police forces throughout the country to accomplish that purpose. The hon. gentleman would have to specify directly the areas in which the survey to which he refers are being conducted, so that I could provide him with additional information.

Mr. Towers: Mr. Speaker, it is not the information being given to the people that causes me trouble but, rather, the questions being asked. Is the minister aware that questions are asked which do not relate to security or safety of homes, but which deeply intrude into the privacy of the individual; that is questions concerning education, type of employment and whether or not the householder keeps weapons on the premises? How does the minister justify this type of questioning?

Mr. Blais: Again, as I have indicated, a large number of programs are being conducted now in terms of crime prevention. I would have to look at the questionnaire to which the

[Miss MacDonald.]

hon. gentlemen refers so as to better inform myself of the nature of the questions being asked and the replies solicited.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS**DISPOSITION OF BOYCOTT LEGISLATION**

Mr. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister and it concerns the Arab boycott bill. If the Leader of the Opposition changes his mind and agrees to a one-day debate on the bill, will the House leader still be prepared to bring it forward on that basis?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and President of Privy Council): We would not want to see a flip-flop of that magnitude perpetrated again by the Leader of the Opposition. I have already stated the case three times in the House, and it still stands. Today, it was rejected by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Paproski: Okay, coward.

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RAILWAYS**CIRCULAR ON RAIL LINE ABANDONMENT**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport: it has to do with the production of a document entitled "Can Canada really export one and a quarter billion bushels of grain a year by 1985?" It talks about what is being done and what still needs to be done and the whole thing is directed to showing what is still needed, which indicates that little or nothing has been done.

However, I am very much impressed by the expenditure of thousands of dollars in advertising in advance of a possible election, and I will direct my attention and that of the honourable and amiable minister to the last paragraphs of the document. The title reads "What you can do if your closest rail line is proposed for abandonment." It goes on to say:

You can fight for unprotected branch lines several ways, starting right now. Here is what you can do:

1. Form a local retention committee . . .
2. Study the reasons why the Hall commission or PRAC recommended abandonment. You may find an important mistake or you may find the situation has changed.

The next paragraph is a good one.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Diefenbaker: I realize that hon. gentlemen opposite recognize that this is a balloon of falsehoods. The next paragraph—

Some hon. Members: Order.