

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Lewis: I appreciate that perhaps the minister may not have this information at his fingertips. If he finds that these remissions, totalling a very large amount of money, were not reported individually when they exceeded \$1,000 each, will he undertake to the House to table a list of such remissions which were not reported in the way required?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I have already said I will look into it.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—FAILURE OF CERTAIN COMPANIES TO FILE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS—INQUIRY AS TO PROSECUTIONS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, may I address a further supplementary question to the Minister of Justice. In view of the considerable number of companies that have failed to file annual financial statements as required by a section of the Canada Corporations Act and as an even greater number of companies failed to file annual returns as required by another section of the act, can the minister inform the House whether charges are being laid or contemplated against the companies that have failed to file financial statements or annual returns? If so, how many such prosecutions are being initiated?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to take the question as notice and discuss the matter with the minister responsible for those returns, as well as looking at the facts in my department.

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—ACTION TO COLLECT MONEYS OWED BY CERTAIN PROVINCES FOR MILITARY SERVICES IN EMERGENCIES

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Finance. Perhaps the Prime Minister will discontinue his reading for a moment and listen to my question. Will he ask the Minister of Finance to take the first opportunity on motions to explain what the government intends to do to collect the \$816,000 which has now been owed for two years or more by the provinces of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and British Columbia for military services rendered in emergencies, and why the money has not been collected so far?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will be very happy to discuss the question with the Minister of Finance.

An hon. Member: A supplementary question—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There are at least ten hon. members rising for supplementaries. The Chair will recognize a few and then go to the hon. member for Lotbinière. For the moment the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Oxford.

[Mr. Pepin.]

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—ACTION ON OFFENCES ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY CERTAIN PUBLIC SERVANTS IN EXPENDITURE OF MONEYS

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Finance. In view of various offences which, according to the 1970-71 report of the Auditor General, appear to have been committed by certain public servants with respect to the spending of public moneys, could the Prime Minister find out—perhaps he knows already—whether the Minister of Finance has consulted or intends to consult with the Attorney General of Canada in order that appropriate action may be taken?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will be very glad to, Mr. Speaker.

SUGGESTED INQUIRY INTO WASTING OF FUNDS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the attention of the Prime Minister. Having in mind that the Public Accounts Committee has had a book compiled listing its scores of recommendations made between 1930 and 1970, a 40-year period, for the stopping of waste by the government, will the government give consideration to inquiring not only into those items of waste but also into the root cause of this continuing government goofing?

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN SPENDING BY NORTHERN CANADA COMMISSION—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question was for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development but I will direct it to the parliamentary secretary. Inasmuch as the Auditor General's report for the third year in a row has pointed out some very serious irregularities in spending by one northern Canada commission, amounting to about half a million dollars last year which was not authorized by the Governor in Council or Treasury Board, could the parliamentary secretary indicate why these irregularities are continuing and what is going to be done about them?

Hon. Martin P. O'Connell (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I will draw the question to the attention of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I reiterate that the report will be before the standing committee soon.

Mr. Baldwin: One would think they were spending their own money.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

RHODESIA—CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO INTENSIFY SANCTIONS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the statement the minister tabled yesterday