

Oral Questions

CONSPIRACY INQUIRY

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice. Would the Minister in this regard when he is giving the consideration, which under his statutory responsibility he must do, look at the matter of criminal conspiracy under Section 423 of the Criminal Code as it relates to the involvement of the employment of people in the Prime Minister's Office in connection with the falsification of employment record in the public service of this country?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I will give the Hon. Member's questions the attention they merit.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An Hon. Member: You had better look at them.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUEST INTO DEATHS OF MILITIA MEMBERS—REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPT

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. On Monday I had the opportunity to present a petition to this House, a copy of which I supplied to the Minister, requesting him to release the transcript of the military inquest into the accident which took the lives of two young men of the Canadian Militia on August 21, 1983. The Minister previously indicated to me that he thought this information should be sought through the Access to Information Act. He has been asked to use his ministerial powers to make that transcript available to the families so they can find out what actually happened that day. I know the Minister has had the opportunity to consider the matter. Will he tell us now whether he is prepared to release that transcript?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for his question and for his continuing interest in this matter. As I indicated to him initially, the matter should be pursued through the Access to Information Act. As I understand it, an application has already been made and I have directed my officials to give that application their undivided attention in order to expedite the release of the information.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I feel the Minister could have used his powers in this case. The families have already waited since August of last year, trying to find out. I regret that he has not decided to make the transcript available now.

DRIVER'S LICENCE

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of National

Defence. May I ask him whether he would be prepared, because this is a matter separate from the inquest, to instruct the Militia to make available to the parents a copy, or the original, of the driver's licence of Private Krosney, so the parents can know whether or not their son was trained by the military to drive the vehicle he was driving that day when he was killed?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I will take those comments as a representation, and I will see to it that every effort is made to accede on a positive note.

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[Translation]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR PRESENTATION OF PROJECTS

Mrs. Éva Côté (Rimouski-Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Environment.

Some time ago, he announced a most interesting program known as Environment 2000. However, the time limit for submitting projects under this program is very short and representations have been made to the Minister in this regard. I would like the Minister to tell us today if possible whether the final date for submitting projects under the Environment 2000 Program has been put off so that a greater number of interesting projects may be submitted?

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, as mentioned by the Hon. Member, several Members have shown their interest in the Environment 2000 Program and have raised the question of the date limit. I have examined this issue, and to give more time to all Canadians who live in the faraway areas of the country and who are interested in this program, I have decided to push the final date back five days.

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[English]

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION PERTAINING TO LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister with respect to the covert operations carried on by the Prime Minister's Office—

Mr. Ouellet: That is not true.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: —with respect to the background of the Leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister obviously confuse the public funds and the use of public facilities with their own money for political purposes. At least the Watergate plumbers got their money from the Republican Party.