

[English]

QUERY RESPECTING ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Hon. Allan Lawrence (Durham-Northumberland): Is the President of the Privy Council indicating that he does not even know if the report has been made to him or not, or what the recommendations are, or what the situation is? In view of this almost unbelievable ignorance of something within his jurisdiction I would ask him whether he could also, while he is checking into it, check into the actual transcripts, papers and revelations of Mr. Gouzenko to ascertain whether or not it is true that a number of public civil servants were incriminated by those revelations and if, as well, there were two other spy rings indicated in this country's public service and that the government, in the intervening years, has done absolutely nothing to try to uncover those two spy rings?

[Translation]

Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council): Madam Speaker, my previous answer also applies to the second question.

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[English]

NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

IMPORTANCE OF AGREEMENT ON LAW OF THE SEA

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister and relates to the upcoming Ottawa Summit in July and the Law of the Sea agreement. Assuming that he recognizes and agrees that seabed resource and revenue sharing must be the cornerstone of any redistribution of the world's economic wealth and power, and that a collapse of the Law of the Sea agreement would seriously undermine hopes for a new and more just international economic order, will he not only try to convince the United States of the very great importance of signing the Law of the Sea agreement for the future of the North-South dialogue, but will he also take the initiative at the meeting to have the delegates approve this agreement at least in principle?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Well, I would agree with the hon. member, Madam Speaker, that for many of the Third World countries the Law of the Sea agreement and its provisions concerning the seabed are indeed central to their preoccupations.

I cannot give any guarantee to the hon. member as to the results to be obtained, but she is aware that various countries are attempting in various ways to persuade the United States to accede to the conventions of the Law of the Sea, and that we in Canada will continue to try to persuade the United States to that effect.

Miss Jewett: I hope that the Prime Minister will take the initiative at this conference to have the delegates approve in principle the Law of the Sea agreement. Would the Prime

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Minister assure us that we still believe in the multilateral approach and that in fact, if the United States decided it did not want to go that way, or wanted a mini-treaty of some kind, that we would not go the route of the mini-treaty? Would he assure us that we will continue to go the multilateral route and continue to show a very intimate interrelationship between the Law of the Sea agreement and the possibility of a new international economic order?

● (1140)

Mr. Trudeau: Madam Speaker, I am not aware of the alternative mentioned by the hon. member of a mini-treaty, but certainly I can indicate that the Law of the Sea negotiations which have taken place thus far are the way in which we intend to see the matter continued.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT PRODUCTION CENTRE IN TORONTO

Mr. Jesse P. Flis (Parkdale-High Park): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State and Minister of Communications. On last Friday, May 15, the CBC appeared before the Standing Committee on Communications and Culture, and I renewed my question about when the CBC plans to build a central production centre in Toronto. The president of the CBC agreed with me that the existing facilities are appalling, but said he does not plan to do anything until the government makes a definite commitment to the construction of a CBC production centre in Toronto. Would the minister tell the House what steps his department has taken, or plans to take, toward the construction of such a facility, and what kind of expenditures are involved?

Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Madam Speaker, in response to the hon. member's question, the CBC has a proposal to lease additional space in the Toronto area to consolidate some of its facilities. As to a new CBC facility in Toronto, I am informed that the cost would be somewhere between \$235 million and \$250 million.

The CBC receives a parliamentary appropriation every year. It is now somewhere around \$649 million, which is \$70 million more than last year, and \$150 million in commercial revenues, which gives them a total budget of close to \$790 million. The CBC has a capital component in its budget of approximately \$75 million a year which it spends on capital projects. This year the management of the CBC recommended to the government that consolidation take place in a number of places in the country, including Regina where some \$16 million will be spent this year on new facilities. It is up to the CBC to make recommendations to cabinet. I understand that in the Toronto area the CBC is looking at a number of other options, including the use of land which it presently owns.