

S.O. 30

A fire evacuation drill was held for the CBC regional office staff in May, 1984.

A Labour Canada senior labour affairs officer is monitoring progress by attendance at the CBC safety committee meetings.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

Question No. 143—Mrs. Killens:

Since the announcement by the Minister of National Health and Welfare on March 29, 1984, what is the status of the work of the Secretariat responsible for examining the progress made following the recommendations resulting from the 1979 International Year of the Child?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): The status of the work of the Secretariat responsible for examining the progress made following the recommendations resulting from the 1979 International Year of the Child is as follows:

1. The Secretariat requested and has received responses from the 47 federal departments and agencies affected by the recommendations of the Canadian Commission for International Year of the Child.
2. The responses are being edited and prepared for publication early in 1985.

[Translation]

Mr. Dick: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The questions as enumerated by the Parliamentary Secretary have been answered, shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

[English]

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I want to bring to the attention of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader (Mr. Dick) and to yourself, Sir, that question No. 131, dating from December 6, which I brought to the attention of the House on several occasions, has not yet been replied to. The same applies to question No. 148. Both of these questions involved patronage issues by the Government. The Government refuses to answer them.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary will take notice of the point of order.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 30

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF PREMIER OF NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice under Standing Order 30 of an application from the Hon. Member for York Centre (Mr. Kaplan).

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, in view of the refusal of the Solicitor General (Mr. MacKay) and the

Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Nielsen) to give satisfactory answers, or indeed any answers, to some of the serious matters that were raised during Question Period today, pursuant to Standing Order 30 I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner), the adjournment of the House to discuss a matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the extraordinary interference by the Solicitor General in the criminal investigation of the Hon. Richard Hatfield and the admission of bias by the Attorney General of Canada (Mr. Crosbie) in the light of his responsibility to decide upon an appeal in this affair.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York Centre indeed gave notice to myself of his application pursuant to Standing Order 30. On listening to the Hon. Member's statement in the House, I have to say that his application does cause me some concern in relation to the provisions and conditions of Standing Order 30 that must be met before an emergency debate takes place.

In the first instance, the Chair must take into account whether or not there will be some reasonable opportunity for the House to discuss the matter in some other way. On Friday last the Government House Leader (Mr. Hnatyshyn) did designate Tuesday of this week to be an allotted day and the Opposition will enjoy the privilege of controlling the subject matter of tomorrow's debate.

In the second instance, the Hon. Member's application cannot be reconciled with the condition of subsection (f) of Standing Order 30(16) which states:

the discussion under the motion must not raise any question which, according to the Standing Orders of the House, can only be debated on a distinct motion under notice.

It is a long-standing practice in our House that the conduct of an Hon. Member can be reviewed only by way of a substantive motion of which notice has been given and which will result in a decision of the House on the matter.

[Translation]

On Friday, June 19, 1959, Mr. Speaker Michener made a ruling which has often been quoted in such cases. Here is what he said:

—simple justice requires that no Hon. Member should have to submit to investigation of his conduct by the House or a committee until he has been charged with an offence.

That ruling by Mr. Michener also led to Citation 40 of Beauchesne's Fifth Edition, as follows:

In any case where the propriety of a Member's action is brought into question, a specific charge must be made.

[English]

The Twentieth Edition of Erskine May at page 378 further clarifies the matter. It reads:

Certain matters cannot be debated, except upon a substantive motion which admits of a distinct vote of the House. Amongst these are the conduct of the sovereign, the heir to the throne or other members of the Royal Family, a Governor-General of an independent territory, the Lord Chancellor, the Speak-