

and directed to the Minister of State (Multiculturalism) responsible for communications.

Like the hon. member, I compliment the government on this central agency. One of my concerns is that, given the bigness, there may be a tendency to forget the number of weekly newspapers and the ethnic press. We want some direction from government to that agency that the weekly press and the ethnic press will, in fact, be used better than they have been used in the past. Sometimes they have been ignored.

Hon. Jim Fleming (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Madam Speaker, I very much appreciate the hon. member's question. He can be sure that because of the other hat I wear, the ethnic press will not suffer because of my responsibilities for communications. I also hope that, without in any way doing a disservice to many worth-while press operations, we can improve the system from its operation in the past.

I should add, on the question of weekly newspapers and advertising, I am very concerned, from the information that has come to my attention, that they have not been used sufficiently by the federal government in the past, and I plan to change that.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

COMPLAINTS BY MEMBERS OF SECURITY SERVICE—ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Madam Speaker, may I ask the Solicitor General why it is that members of the security service, at least here in Ontario, are not permitted to carry hand guns in the ordinary course of their duties? May I ask him how he is reacting to complaints from members in the security service and elsewhere that they are being discriminated against because of their activities in connection with the association of 17 divisions, something that I think his colleague from Notre-Dame-de-Grâce asked him some weeks ago?

Is the minister aware that some members of the force are complaining to their commanding officers that such actions may be in violation of section 382 of the Criminal Code, and also the Public Service Staff Relations Act.

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, I am not aware of the complaint that members of the security service are said to have made. I will look into it. As to the carrying of weapons, I will look into that as well. My understanding is that the main function of the security service is intelligence-gathering. Carrying weapons would not be part of intelligence-gathering activities.

Mr. MacKay: Madam Speaker, I will send the minister copies of official correspondence in both these matters, since he has not seen them. I suggest to him that it is very strange, since ordinary, junior members and other sections of the RCMP carry weapons in the course of their duties, and the security service—which operates on a much more senior level

Privilege—Mr. Murphy

and provides protection when special events take place such as VIP visits, and so on—are not allowed, except under special circumstances, to carry weapons. I hope the minister will look into this.

Mr. Kaplan: Madam Speaker, the question of carrying weapons is not related to the seniority of the officer, but to the function he is carrying out at the time.

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● (1500)

PRIVILEGE

MR. MURPHY—CASH REBATE ON TRUCKS AND CARS

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, on Friday last in this House I directed questions to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) with regard to Canadian consumers not receiving a rebate of the same amount as the \$200 to \$1,000 enjoyed by American consumers of Chrysler products. In my supplementary question, as recorded at page 1152 of *Hansard*, I asked:

Will the minister get in touch immediately with Chrysler Canada to make sure that we, as Canadian consumers, get just as good a deal from Chrysler, especially since it is getting such a good deal from us?

The minister, in his reply, said this:

Madam Speaker, I am very glad my hon. friend in the NDP has officially recognized that we have obtained a good deal from Chrysler for Canadian workers and the Canadian people generally. I would like to make sure that is on the record.

Later, as reported on the same page, the minister said:

As I have said to my hon. friend, I will be very happy to go into the matter he has raised. I must say I was not aware of the details he has provided on this rebate program but it is important that it be confirmed by the NDP that we have obtained a good deal from Chrysler for Canadian workers and the Canadian people.

Madam Speaker, it is not my intention to raise the subject matter again. However, it is my intention to ensure that the minister and all members of this House understand that in no way did I suggest that the Canadian workers and the Canadian people received a good deal. For the record, my remarks indicated the opposite—that it was Chrysler which was getting a very good deal from the people of Canada, and that it had failed to offer the people of Canada the same rebate program as United States consumers are getting. It is Chrysler which is getting the good deal. In no way did I suggest to the House that the people of Canada and the workers of Chrysler are getting a good deal.

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I am glad the hon. member has raised the point, Madam Speaker, because the workers at Chrysler, at their dealers and their supplying firms will be dismayed to hear what he has just said.

Madam Speaker: I gather that the explanation which has just been furnished by the minister will satisfy the hon. member for Churchill (Mr. Murphy). I must tell him, though,