

Oral Questions

that he believed the other party to the conversation was in fact Mr. Reisman. That was a statement made downstairs. I wonder if the Prime Minister would be in a position to confirm that Mr. Reisman was in fact the other party in the conversations with Deputy Minister Nixon and, further, which party initiated these calls?

Mr. Trudeau: I will inquire.

LOCKHEED CONTRACT—DATE OF CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN REISMAN AND DEPUTY MINISTER—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF CONTRACTS WITH REISMAN AND GRANDY

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, in view of the importance of these matters, and in view of the effect that such communications might very well have on a purchase contract such as the one which we are talking about, would the Prime Minister also confirm whether these conversations took place before the contract was announced on November 27, 1975 or was it during the period immediately following the announcement in which the financial difficulties emerged, and further, would the Prime Minister table all the contracts Reisman and Grandy had with the government since they retired and, as well, whatever additional correspondence or documentation there is which spells out the terms of reference of these contracts?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I answered that question yesterday in so far as the departments were concerned. I also said that no such contract had been entered into. I indicated yesterday that there had been two very short term contractual arrangements with two departments, and that is the extent of my knowledge. I also stated to the Leader of the Opposition that the matter was being looked into and that I would report when I had the facts.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPRIETY OF RETIRED EMPLOYEES BEING DIRECTORS OF CROWN CORPORATIONS AND ACTING AS CONSULTANTS TO GOVERNMENT

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. While the Prime Minister is looking into the matter of former senior civil servants being employed shortly after retirement as consultants to the government, would the right hon. gentleman also consider the propriety of retired civil servants acting commercially as consultants on government matters, and who are at the same time directors of Crown corporations?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will look at that also, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton).]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

LOCKHEED CONTRACT—POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING INFORMATION FROM UNITED STATES ON PAYMENT OF BRIBES

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Minister of National Defence. Yesterday in the House, and I think on other occasions as well, the minister was questioned with regard to requests to the United States government for detailed information on bribes offered by Lockheed with regard to purchases of aircraft. The minister replied that he had had conversations with senior officials of the United States government. I should like now to ask him whether he or any other representative of the government have adopted or will adopt the procedure indicated by the justice department of the United States, namely, that foreign governments should negotiate with the justice department to obtain information gathered by U.S. agencies such as SEC in regard to so called "overseas pay-offs" by U.S. concerns?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I have said that I do not believe we should have an investigation until there is something that we should be investigating. The hon. member is suggesting a kind of witch hunt—

An hon. Member: Not a witch hunt, fact finding.

Mr. Richardson: In the Senate hearings there was a full disclosure of the improper payments that the Lockheed company had made. The countries in which these payments had been made were named, and Canada was not mentioned at any time in those full hearings. I think that is all that we should expect. I do not think it is right to assume that there is wrongdoing when there is no evidence.

Mr. Brewin: I should like to say to the minister that I for one am getting a little tired of these cover ups.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brewin: Many other countries have adopted the procedure suggested by the U.S. authorities, namely, they have gone to the justice department and are seeking information. What is the reason that this minister is not prepared to do the same as they are doing? He could keep the answer confidential, as far as I know, but why does he not find out what the facts are?

Mr. Richardson: The other countries which are seeking information were named at the Senate hearing, and they had a reason to investigate.

Mr. Brewin: I had slipped in a question which I had not expected to ask, but I will now go on to my last question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Did you get an answer to it?

Mr. Brewin: No answer.

Mr. Nystrom: I wish he would slip in an answer.