

Mr. Rose: In this same general area, has the government considered the establishment of a press council for Canada or assisting in the establishment of such a council?

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice on the same subject. Because of the allegations of serious suppression of fundamental civil rights alleged by these journalists at their weekend meeting, is the minister or his department going to make an inquiry into these matters?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I would first like to study the question of whom these allegations were directed against. Having done that, I would perhaps be prepared to give an answer to the hon. member later.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

SUGGESTED APPEARANCE OF PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF JUSTICE, SECRETARY OF STATE AND PREMIER OF QUEBEC BEFORE SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I would like to ask the government House leader, in whose name the motion for the establishment of the special joint committee appears, if he would discuss with the other party House leaders the matter of facilitating the appearance before that committee of the only true experts on apprehended insurrection—the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice, the premier of Quebec and the Secretary of State who has written about it?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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JUDGES ACT

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH JUDICIAL COUNCIL—POSSIBLE FIRING OF JUDGES

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Justice arising out of a bill which has received first reading. Did the minister obtain or try to obtain the consent of all ten provincial Attorneys General or have any discussions with the Chief Justices of the various provinces with regard to setting up the judicial council and did the minister receive a recommendation from them that would make it possible for the minister or the cabinet to fire judges in this country?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I completely reject the declaration in that question. I want to assure the hon. member that they were consulted with regard to the bill in so far as it related to the Canadian judicial commission. It was discussed with all ten provincial Attorneys General at the meeting we held in Halifax last summer and with all 22 Chief Justices in this country.

Mr. Woolliams: A supplementary question. In order to obtain information, I ask the minister whether it is a fact that if the council made a recommendation to him as Minister of Justice he could make a recommendation to the cabinet and a judge could be fired?

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter for debate when the bill comes before the House. I want to say to the hon. member that the purpose of the Canadian judicial commission is to ensure that the separation of powers as between the executive and the judiciary is properly maintained.

Mr. Woolliams: That destroys their independence.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED AMCHITKA UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS—REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): My question is for the Acting Prime Minister. Bearing in mind the severe earthquake registered in the north Pacific over the weekend and also the scheduled large-scale United States nuclear tests in the same general quake prone area, will the government renew its representations to Washington in opposition to these scheduled underground nuclear blasts?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As the House is aware, Mr. Speaker, ever since the hon. member for Victoria raised this question we have been very concerned about it. We have made a number of representations, the last of which I tabled in the House. The President of the United States has promised to give very careful consideration to our representations. As long as this is the situation, I see very little point in renewing these representations. However, because this matter was raised in the House it will no doubt again be brought to the attention of the United States government.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

DISPUTE BETWEEN HUDSON BAY MINING AND SMELTING COMPANY AND EMPLOYEES—STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): My question is for the Minister of Labour. Can the minister offer any real encouragement with regard to the possible settlement of the strike involving the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company and the union at Flin Flon?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I understand that both parties will be resuming negotiations on Thursday in the presence of a federal mediator. This morning I met with officials of the Hudson Bay Mining Company. I feel their position is now flexible enough to at least give encouragement that a settlement may be available provided both parties approach the bargaining in the proper mood.

Mr. Korchinski: Does the minister now have a man on the scene at Flin Flon?

Mr. Mackasey: When the negotiations resume on Thursday there will be a representative of the Department of Labour on hand.