

tured but as yet none has received the approval of the authorities in Canada. That is to say, so far no container is sufficiently fool-proof to justify its use under the criminal statute.

Mr. Diefenbaker: The bill was brought in before it should have been.

PUBLIC WORKS

DELAY OF QUEBEC PROJECTS IN LIGHT OF POLITICAL SITUATION

Mr. Robert Borrie (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question is related to an answer given previously by the right hon. Prime Minister. Will the Ste. Scholastique airport and a number of other federal projects scheduled for Quebec be delayed while assessment is made of the apparent statements in favour of separatism by two political parties seeking election in that province?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, federal policies are designed for the advantage of all citizens of Canada. If we were to suspend their completion every time some petty provincial politician from any province threatened separatism we would get nowhere.

INFORMATION CANADA

CONSULTATION BY MINISTER WITH DIRECTOR PRIOR TO ALLEGED CHANGING OF NEWS STORY

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister without Portfolio who speaks for Information Canada in the House. I should like to ask if the minister, who was not in the House for a few days before we recessed for Easter, consulted with the director of Information Canada before intervening personally to change the Canadian Press story reporting partisan influences in Information Canada?

Hon. Robert Stanbury (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member does not do justice to the Canadian Press. I have no means of changing any story of theirs. When questioned I simply gave my side of the story and they were kind enough to include that which had not been included before. The director had not yet been appointed at that time.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, the minister came to my question in the last part of his

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answer. My question was, did he consult before he amplified his position to the Canadian Press. I should like to know if it was before or after.

Mr. Stanbury: I have just said, Mr. Speaker, that I did not consult. There was no director at the time and I have not consulted with him since about my statement.

Mr. Nowlan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. This is a rather important matter which has not come before Parliament in the proper way. In view of the serious threat to accurate reporting posed by the appearance of partisanship in Information Canada, will the minister use his good offices with the chairman of the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts to have the director of Information Canada, Mr. Gagnon, appear before that committee to define his terms of reference and to explain some of his past partisan political activities?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Horner: Good question.

Mr. Nowlan: A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member is rising on a point of order.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take the time of the House today but the minister was not in the House for several days before we rose, even though he was on the roster. Certain things happened in regard to Information Canada which caused a great deal of gloom and left a cloud over it. I thought the minister was about to rise to answer this question because the whole matter has not come before Parliament. It has been slipped in as an estimate of \$7 million at a time when this government is chopping expenditures, everywhere.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is addressed to the Minister without Portfolio responsible for Information Canada. Would the minister instruct the director of Information Canada, as one of his first duties, to use his influence to have the minister answer the questions on the Order Paper?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.