

Oral Questions

year, when the supposed maximum annual increase permitted by the AIB guidelines in \$2,400, and at a time when workers with incomes of less than \$10,000 a year are being restricted to increases of 4 per cent to 6 per cent a year?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am taking note of that question and shall inquire into the matter from representatives of the Anti-Inflation Board.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Rosedale.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

CANADIAN CULTURE

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, I thank hon. members: the warm response reminds me of the line from Macbeth about my predecessor, Macdonwald, of whom it was said: "Nothing in his life became him like the leaving it".

I should like to direct my question to the Secretary of State. Is he in a position to meet with the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres for the purpose of discussing further financing for the performing arts?

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the hon. member's question, largely because it gives me a chance to salute the completion of the distinguished parliamentary career of the hon. member.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Roberts: I have met with the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres to discuss its problems. I hope to meet with them again in the not too distant future. Perhaps I should say to the hon. member's Doppelgänger, the hon. member for Egmont, who cited the other day an apparent drop in the funding for the arts on the part of the Secretary of State, that there is an error in the estimates. In fact, rather than decreasing, as was suggested by the hon. member, they have been increased. I will provide him with the details.

Mr. Paproski: When did you change that?

* * *

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

WARREN HART—REQUESTED RETURN TO CANADA TO GIVE EVIDENCE

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration, I should like to direct my question to the Solicitor General. Will the minister advise the House whether Mr. Warren Hart

[Mr. Orlikow.]

entered and left Canada with the knowledge and consent of the RCMP or the Department of Employment and Immigration, or both, subsequent to the deportation order of December 9, 1971? Such order resulted from an inquiry under the provisions of the Immigration Act held December 9, 1971, before special inquiry officer W. O. Darling. Is the minister prepared to consult with his cabinet colleagues to facilitate the re-entry of Mr. Hart into this country so that he can testify before the appropriate bodies?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, the deportation order was, indeed, effected and Mr. Hart left the country with the concurrence of the RCMP. I would have to check with my colleague to ascertain whether there was involvement on the part of immigration authorities at that time. With reference to facilitating the re-entry of Mr. Hart into Canada, that is a matter which would have to be disposed of by the minister, and undoubtedly a request made by the McDonald commission.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, is the minister really saying that the tapings to which he referred outside the House yesterday were accidental? Also, is he able to tell the House whether the commissioner of the RCMP knew, approved and was consulted concerning the recruitment and taking into this country of Mr. Warren Hart?

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, with reference to the entry of Mr. Hart into this country, it was done in accordance with the measures which are followed in such occurrences as between the RCMP and other associations of like nature in other countries.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Blais: I will not comment further. In terms of my statement yesterday, I do not recall using the word "accidental". What I meant was "incidental".

INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Solicitor General. It relates to the evidence given by the commissioner and other officials before the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs last November, relating to our use of agents provocateurs, undercover agents and intelligence activities in foreign countries. Has the Solicitor General considered this very important evidence? Is he prepared to stand by it? If not, will he give an undertaking to the House that he will clarify and/or, if necessary, reject that very important evidence which was given before the standing committee last November?

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any evidence indicating that we have used agents provocateurs outside—

An hon. Member: The hon. minister is not aware?