

NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT'S PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF KGB AGENTS OPERATING IN CANADA—RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL PERMITS

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Solicitor General. It relates to the KGB and to the staff of the Soviet embassy in Ottawa and to the implication contained in a statement made on March 24, 1976, by the then solicitor general, now Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, when he said:

Mr. Speaker, the RCMP are aware that certain members of the Soviet Union Embassy staff in Ottawa are with the KGB.

In other words, the government was aware, possibly at the time they came into Canada, that they were with the KGB. Can the minister confirm whether this was the case? Were they under surveillance at that time? Further, can the Acting Solicitor General inform the House whether or not restrictions are being placed upon the right of people so identified to travel within Canada?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): I am not familiar with the statement to which the hon. member refers, so I think I will allow the Solicitor General to answer the question, if he wishes, when he is next in the House. As to whether there are restrictions on travel, the Secretary of State for External Affairs made it clear the other day that there are some restrictions.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

DEPARTMENT'S ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE DEFRAUDING OF FUND

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I should like to thank him for naming the firm of Vickers and Benson as the faithful firm which will be the recipient of the contract to place the advertisements relating to unemployment. May I ask the minister what professional advice was obtained which resulted in the department being persuaded that this kind of campaign was desirable?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): In addition to the information already sent to the hon. member, outlining the many and varied reasons for conducting this campaign at the present time, it seemed appropriate, given the fact that a lot of people were suffering under the misapprehension that people are cheating on unemployment insurance and getting away with it, while nobody was taking any action against them, to point out that we collected some \$60 million out of a total of \$65 million in overpayments. There were more than 7,000 instances in which we were able to enforce repayment; but in my opinion it would be better to work on preventive measures rather than the enforcement aspect.

Oral Questions

● (1452)

Mr. Clarke: Mr. Speaker, since the Minister of Employment and Immigration found such success with this kind of advertising campaign, can we expect other ministries of the government to come forward with other advertising campaigns to persuade Canadians to stop committing other types of crime?

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TRANSPORT

FERRY SERVICE IN MARITIMES—SUGGESTION CN MARINE REDUCING STAFF

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. As the minister knows, on January 1 CN Marine, a new organization, took over the assets of the government in connection with the ferry service and coastal service in Newfoundland and the maritimes. Is it correct that CN Marine are about to transfer out of Newfoundland the staff, or make redundant the jobs of the staff in the office and accounting department? If that is the case, how many, why, and what is afoot with CN Marine? The minister knows the very high unemployment situation there.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any such transfer in the works. The proposal by CN Marine has included the desirability of looking at a number of centres within the Atlantic area where their operation might be located. I would like to identify further the suggestion the hon. member has made and come back with a definite answer on it.

Mr. Crosbie: Will the minister agree to recommend to CN Marine that in addition to being cost-effective it should be human-effective and, since most of their work is involved in the Newfoundland coastal service, Labrador service and ferry operations in Newfoundland, that their head office should be in St. John's, Newfoundland or somewhere in Newfoundland, and not Moncton, New Brunswick?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree that the prime objective of CN Marine is to provide good service to the public. That always is true. I believe one can produce efficient operations, try to minimize waste and lower costs at the same time. Certainly, if one has to choose between the two, my direction to CN Marine would be to give good service to the public.

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[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

INQUIRY WHETHER ONTARIO RECEIVED FAIR SHARE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa-Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State.