

Oral Questions

included in that ad hoc membership a couple of people of native Indian origin?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have been interviewing potential candidates for the last few weeks and I hope to make the appointments shortly. Among those I am interviewing are several native people.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Speaker, I have a short supplementary. Would the minister like to take the same enlightened approach he took in regard to the Chairman of the National Parole Board and apply it to the Commissioner of Penitentiaries?

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**PROGRESS OF PROGRAM TO DECENTRALIZE STAFF**

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the minister's announcement at the Western Economic Opportunities Conference that decentralization of his department would be accomplished by switching the ratio of 70 per cent in Ottawa and 30 per cent in the field to the exact reverse, why is this program behind schedule and what is the minister doing about the hemorrhage of senior staff to other departments?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I do not think I could answer that question fully within the time constraint you obviously would impose. I can say that decentralization is moving ahead. Quite a few people are in the field and most of the senior positions have been filled. I will be very glad subsequently to answer any other question the hon. member may have, perhaps in committee or elsewhere.

Mr. Roche: How does the minister propose to have effective decentralization of the decision-making process without dislocating the lives of many career civil servants who live in Ottawa and without at the same time duplicating and adding staff in the field?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That appears to be argument. Perhaps the minister and the hon. member might get together and continue the debate some other time, possibly after the question period.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**LEAKAGE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION—INQUIRY AS TO SECOND INVESTIGATION—PRESENT POSITION**

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I should like to know whether the minister is prepared to say if a second investigation is going on in his department or CIDA into unauthorized disclosure of classified information?

[Mr. Howard.]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Only in the most general way, Mr. Speaker. There is no specific suspect in mind.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Will the minister then say that he is satisfied that the resignation recently accepted puts an end to unauthorized disclosures which eventually turn up in the House?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that all members of parliament would realize what a difficult and, for the employee concerned, rather tragic ending there was and that everyone would govern themselves accordingly. As far as I am concerned in my respective responsibilities I have given instructions that there are to be greater precautions than ever before.

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AGRICULTURE**REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT OF ASSISTANCE TO CATTLEMEN IN LIGHT OF DIFFICULTIES**

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, may I compliment you on giving priority to backbenchers today. The calibre of questions is definitely on the rise.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: It was until now.

Mr. Cullen: My question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the serious difficulties being faced by Canadian cattlemen, costing them thousands of dollars on a daily basis, is the minister or the Minister of Finance prepared to make some announcement within the next few days on what is going to be done in the short term and long term to cope with this problem?

An hon. Member: A good question.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, as I said last Friday, I believe, several suggestions are being put forward and we are considering those. What solutions we will come up with to aid these people in the plight in which they find themselves at this time I am not prepared to say at the moment because we are still considering them.

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HEALTH**REQUEST FOR MORE FUNDS FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Mr. Trevor Morgan (St. Catharines): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the deficiency in funds provided by the government for medical research in Canada, which will result in the stopping of many necessary research projects and stop very intelligent young doctors going into the research field, is there any hope at all that the minister will reconsider his position and grant more money for this necessary medical research?