

that without any change in the billing there can, of course, be an increase in the individual lawyer's return. There has been some discussion directed toward scaling down the billing rate as the actual cost goes up.

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[Translation]

ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

INQUIRY WHETHER REGIONAL OFFICES ESTABLISHED IN QUEBEC AND UNDER WHOSE JURISDICTION

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I would like to pose a question to the Minister of Finance.

As far as Quebec province is concerned, can the Minister tell the House if the Anti-Inflation Board will have a regional office in each region of that province and if that office will be under federal or provincial jurisdiction or jointly administered?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, if I understand the hon. member correctly, he would like to know if the federal Anti-Inflation Board has jurisdiction over the postal employees. It is really the Anti-Inflation Board which has such jurisdiction and it is empowered to consider the agreement between the postal employees and the government.

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

The minister did not understand my question completely. Will the Anti-Inflation Board have regional offices throughout Quebec and, if so, will they be jointly administered or only by the federal government?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, we shall have a Montreal office under Mr. Castonguay but not so in all regions, at least for the time being.

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● (1420)

[English]

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

PARTICIPATION OF MR. NADEAU IN EXAMINATION OF ATTEMPTED TAKEOVER OF ARGUS IN VIEW OF POSITION WITH ROYAL BANK

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister decided whether there would be any conflict of interest in Mr. Pierre Nadeau, a member of the Royal Commission on Corporate Concentration, participating in the examination of the proposed takeover of Argus Corporation by Power Corporation? I ask this as Mr. Nadeau is a director of the Royal Bank, which made available most of the funds necessary for the proposed takeover, and as the whole question of the loan was thoroughly examined by the Royal Bank board.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the conflict of interest guidelines function in their application this way with departments or royal commis-

sions: the deputy minister, in the case of a department, and the chairman of the royal commission, in the case of commissions, reports to me on his own freedom from conflict of interest. People under him report to him. I am sure Mr. Bryce will have this question drawn to his attention, and he can make his own judgment. I must add that, in the case of a royal commission in particular, or other areas where we seek to have people work part time for the common weal and draw them from the private sector, whether from business, labour, finance, the universities, and so on, it is inevitable that these people will not sever all links with the rest of their lives; otherwise we would not be able to enjoy their expertise. So, on this basis I am sure Mr. Bryce will make an equitable decision.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Prime Minister that when we draw useful people for these commissions there is bound to be the possibility of conflict of interest from time to time. Would it not be desirable if Mr. Nadeau were to withdraw from the board for this particular case? Otherwise a lot of people will think there is a conflict of interest here.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I do not know the facts of the particular case to which the hon. member refers but will ensure that Mr. Bryce, the chairman of the commission, hears about it.

Mr. Baldwin: Have you read the guidelines yourself yet?

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

SKY SHOPS AND MIRABEL—INQUIRY WHETHER INVESTIGATIONS SEPARATE

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my brief question is directed to the Solicitor General. Has the Solicitor General conferred with the Prime Minister, pursuant to the admonition the Prime Minister gave him on December 4, as reported at page 9708 of *Hansard*, not to give information to the hon. member for Calgary North on whether or not the Mirabel and Sky Shops investigations are one and the same? I wonder whether he is authorized to give any answer today. I realize that he must be cautious in what he says. Can he give us any information about the way the investigation or investigations are proceeding? For example, are any investigations being conducted outside this country?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have not discussed the matter further with the Prime Minister and have no further information to give the House at this time.

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AIRPORTS

DORVAL—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF LEASE WITH KEBEC RESTAURANTS—POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE TENDERING

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of