

Oral Questions

Friday. I knew specifically when it did re-enter, on Tuesday morning, I believe it was.

Mr. McKinnon: What the Minister of National Defence has just said, Mr. Speaker, confirms that the Prime Minister was not given a full briefing at NORAD when he made his visit in late December. I would now like to ask the Minister of National Defence, who told us yesterday the operation was Canadian-controlled, whether he will inform us if the United States U-2 which is checking for radiation at high altitudes has reported to us on its findings so far, and whether the American technicians manning American radiation detection pods in the low-level search have reported anything to us on their findings so far.

Mr. Danson: Let me answer the first allegation, Mr. Speaker. I was going to use a word that is unparliamentary. Briefings at NORAD are very thorough and very intense. My hon. friend has had briefings there. I do not know if they allowed him a full briefing; they may have had doubts, considering the questions he is raising, for the sake of western security—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Danson: Certainly, there are those that are out of orbit, those that are not, and those that are disoriented. They are under observation. We cannot take precise readings that far in advance. Having regard to the second question the hon. gentleman asked—which is a legitimate question—there are Canadian crews on board the Hercules surveillance pods. They are reporting and working jointly as a team, and we do not make a clear distinction as to who is Canadian and who is American. When they are working together there, everybody is informed. The commander of the search, of RCC in Edmonton, is fully informed and fully aware. We have continuing co-operation with our American allies through NORAD and through the space program.

* * *

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**JUDGMENT RESPECTING LEGALITY OF QUEBEC BILL 101—
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the right hon. Prime Minister.

An hon. Member: "When am I going to get a cabinet post?"

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[*Translation*]

Mr. Prud'homme: Following the ruling by Quebec Superior Court Chief Justice Deschênes that all clauses of Bill 101 related to legislation and justice language are invalid, would the Prime Minister offer his own comments to this House?

[*Mr. Danson.*]

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. If the Prime Minister wanted to make his own comments on a matter of that sort, during the question period would hardly be the time to do so.

* * *

CONSUMER AFFAIRS**ANTI-CORROSION CODE FOR AUTOMOBILES—TIME AVAILABLE
TO COMPANIES TO DECIDE ON ADOPTION**

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. As the new Canadian anti-corrosion code for automobiles can only be effective if it is obeyed by all Canadian automobile manufacturers, and in view of the fact that so far only one of these companies has agreed to comply with the code, I ask the minister how long the companies are to be given to make the decision to come aboard before the government decides it will pass legislation to back up the code?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Of the so-called Big Three, Mr. Speaker, one of the companies has said very clearly it will follow the code. Another has said its 1978 vehicles actually go beyond the code, although it did not say it would follow the code exactly as written. We have not heard from one of the major three. Several of the importer companies have indicated they will go along with the code. While no time limit was set down, we are awaiting the results of competition and consumer pressures to see whether others will come along. If legislation is necessary—and we have said we will proceed with legislation if that is the case—it will be carried out in full consultation with the provinces.

Mr. Hees: Mr. Speaker, the government obviously intends to rely on voluntary compliance with the code, and this government in particular has had very sad experiences in trying to get people to obey guidelines on a voluntary basis. I ask the minister why the government does not now introduce legislation to back up the code, and thereby guarantee to Canadian automobile owners the kind of protection they have so long been denied.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, we believe in doing things in co-operation with industry and the private sector. This code was developed in close co-operation with the domestic manufacturers and importers. I must say that it received the strong support of all provincial governments as well as the Consumers' Association of Canada and the Automotive Protection Association.