

*Oral Questions***DIVORCE**

PROPOSED CHANGE IN WAITING PERIOD

Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice concerning the proposed changes in divorce legislation. I wholeheartedly endorse many of the excellent proposals, such as stronger enforcement of support and custody orders. My question, however, concerns the proposal to reduce the waiting period when there is a marriage breakdown from three years to one year. Would the Minister consider meeting with interested groups about this one major area of concern so that other alternatives could be examined?

● (1450)

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Justice and Attorney General): Mr. Speaker, if the House adopts the legislation proposed at second reading, it will be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice. I know anyone interested in this subject will be able to make their views known there.

The principle of the legislation is not to make divorce any easier but to make it easier for the parties involved, and particularly their children, who are innocent parties, to bear the consequences of marriages which have already broken down irretrievably, and to allow them to sever their legal relationship with as little stress and acrimony as possible. I think that is a very worthy objective for the legislation.

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NATIVE PEOPLES

"OPERATION BUFFALO JUMP" INQUIRY

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. The code name used in the report prepared by the Deputy Prime Minister's task force was "Operation Buffalo Jump of the 1980s". Is the Deputy Prime Minister aware of the meaning of this term and its symbolism? Could he tell the House whether or not he thinks that this term is an appropriate one for a paper describing government policy for native people in 1985?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge there are no code names used in any of the work that I and my ministerial colleagues are undertaking regarding program review. Any code names are the product of the rather over-active imaginations of the members of the Party opposite.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Is he denying categorically that the term "Operation Buffalo Jump of the 1980s" was used in the

report? I would like to read the following and ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether or not he would confirm it.

The analysis was carried out by a mixed study team, with input from program managers, federal economic development co-ordinators, deputy heads, and the Private Sector Advisory Committee to the Task Force. Additional input came from limited—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order. The Hon. Member has asked his question. I simply cannot allow him to read into the record a great deal more material. The Hon. Member has asked his question.

Mr. Manly: May I ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether or not he will categorically deny that that phrase was used?

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, that sounds suspiciously familiar. I believe it was included in the terms of reference that were made public preceded by an over-view to the terms of reference which were given to the study team which we asked to undertake the work. Again, the Hon. Member is reading from a document, a copy of which he might wish to provide to me so that I could make the same kind of comparison in which I said I would engage, in my response to the question put by the Hon. Member for Skeena yesterday.

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CANADA POST CORPORATION

WILDCAT STRIKE AT OTTAWA TERMINAL

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I will try not to be too meek or mild, and I will not shout either. My question is addressed to the Minister of National Revenue who is responsible for the Canada Post Corporation. As we all know too well, the country is continually plagued by postal disruptions. Last Friday's wildcat strike at the Alta Vista postal terminal was no exception. Is the Minister prepared to investigate what disciplinary action may be taken against those who were involved in the strike?

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I too will try not to be too meek or mild, nor will I shout. I can indicate to the Hon. Member that the people who did not report for work at the Alta Vista plant will be docked a day's pay for not appearing. In addition to that, I can certainly indicate that from the Government's point of view all parties in the Post Office, both labour and management, have a responsibility to the people of Canada to provide a service. The Government is deeply disappointed whenever that service is not provided.

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MARINE TRANSPORT

FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN NOVA SCOTIA AND MAINE

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport