

Oral Questions

Mr. MacEachen: I would have to identify him and give the hon. gentleman his name.

INVESTIGATION OF FOREIGN EMBASSY PERSONNEL WHO
MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING
BEFORE ACCREDITATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that the minister who has been looking into the activities of the CIA, has not been able to discover that yet.

May I ask him this supplementary question which arises from the fact that some nine people who are listed in the 1968 diplomatic corps directory who had been involved at one point in intelligence gathering for the U.S. government also appear in the list of the Department of External Affairs of members on the American consular and embassy staffs. May I ask the minister whether, as a matter of procedure, proposed embassy personnel from foreign governments are investigated by the Canadian government with a view to determining whether they have been involved in intelligence gathering, and if so, whether it is reasonable to assume that they have given it up before being given accreditation by the Canadian government?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): The hon. gentleman would have to give me more convincing information than he is producing from his so called authoritative book called "Who's Who in the CIA" which he has used as the basis of his question which was published in Berlin and, we have good reason to believe, published by the East German intelligence service. It includes such persons as Lyndon Johnson, Dean Rusk, Walt Rostow, and Robert McNamara. Every distinguished person I know of is to be found there, except for the right hon. member for Prince Albert.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not object to the association, but I would say to the hon. gentleman that if he would go back to 1962-1963, during that period of time he might find the CIA was connected with some of the activities of which he knew at that time.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Lafontaine.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to believe that the minister would laugh it off. Apparently, he feels that an appropriate way of dealing with people accused of being involved in intelligence gathering activities would be to have their picture taken with the Prime Minister.

My question deals with procedure. Surely, when accusations are made that a person might have been involved in intelligence gathering it is worthwhile asking the minister whether, as a matter of procedure, before accrediting embassy personnel from foreign governments, his department attempts to determine whether or not they have been involved in intelligence gathering for those government and, if so, whether or not it is safe to assume that they have moved to more arcane pursuits before moving to Canada?

Mr. MacEachen: I assure the hon. member that the gentlemen to whom he has referred whose names, I under-

[Mr. Beatty.]

stand, appear in the morning newspapers, on the basis of an assurance from the American authorities have no connections whatsoever with the CIA. My hon. friend ought to base his questions, if he wishes to act responsibly, on a more authoritative source than "Who's Who in CIA", allegedly published by the East German intelligence service.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

SOCIAL SECURITY

PROPOSED GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME SYSTEM—
PROVINCES POSITION

Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Lafontaine): Mr. Speaker, I never would have hoped to be recognized twice during the same question period.

In view of the dissatisfaction shown by a number of welfare recipients as a result of the administrative complexity of our income supplement programs, due no doubt to their excessive number which makes for a certain lack of co-ordination, can the minister tell the House what progress is being made in the studies concerning the implementation of a single guaranteed annual income system for Canada, and especially how the various provinces are reacting to the proposed system?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I met with my provincial counterparts a few weeks ago and a new federal-provincial conference on this matter is to be held in two weeks. The discussions are progressing normally, and I am confident that we shall reach an agreement within the required time, that is before next summer.

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[English]

ENERGY

SYNCRUDE PROJECT—REQUEST FOR TABLING OF ANY
RECORD OF AGREEMENT

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of what I consider to be a shocking state of affairs that the government of Canada has made certain commitments without any memorandum of agreement, without any exchange of letters of intent, may I ask the minister if any minutes or records were kept of the meeting that was held last Monday, February 3, between the participants in the Syncrude project? If so, will the minutes of that meeting be tabled, in view of the fact that I can hardly believe that the other participants concurred without some written statement as to what the minister was going to announce in the House as the principles upon which the agreement had been reached?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Each of the parties to the discussion took their notes, but I think the hon. gentleman misconceives