

Oral Questions

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Madam Speaker, the judgment was against the government. It has tried to hold back that information.

Will the government again try to hold back information on the free trade agreement with Canada, the United States and Mexico? We have asked six times in this House for sector by sector studies and we have not got that information. Why will the government not release it to Canadians?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Madam Speaker, the fact that the matter has been before the courts indicates there is some question as to the obligation of the government with respect to several of these matters.

There has been a judgment by Mr. Justice Rothstein which we will consider and which we will take into account with regard to other actions before the government.

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COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, my question is to the President of the Treasury Board in the absence of the Minister of Communications.

Today the media informs us that taxpayers have been paying since May and will be paying until March of 1993 for a swanky apartment in Ottawa at the Minto Place Hotel and a free airline ticket to Vancouver every 14 days for the assistant deputy minister of communications.

I want to ask the minister in charge of the purse-strings: Is this what he considers to be wise expenditure of taxpayers' hard earned dollars?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship): Madam Speaker, I will take notice of the question, not having been previously advised of the issue, and will make sure that the minister, on his return, addresses himself to the question at that point.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Madam Speaker, I am surprised the government doesn't know what was in the headlines this morning. Even the Minister of Transport must know about it.

My question to the minister is this: The spokesperson for the Department of Communications said, in response to questions from the media and I quote: "Within six months he is expected to decide whether he is going to leave the foothills of the Rockies. He has been attached to this area".

I would like to ask the government, which seems to be in a fog this morning, what it intends to do to stop this profligate spending?

Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, hiring contracts often include special provisions. These are usually reasonable and take the family situation into account. I am not familiar with the particular case mentioned by the hon. member, but we will look into the matter and get back to him at the appropriate time.

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[*English*]

LABOUR

Mrs. Ethel Blondin—Andrew (Western Arctic): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. The people of Yellowknife have been living in fear for almost six months. Essentially the community has been ripped apart.

The level of violence and tension is escalating each day and is affecting the entire community. Intimidation is reaching uncivilized proportions. Local government is worried that acts of violence will accelerate during winter months. For example, the power outages we have experienced successively could have a devastating impact on the community of 17,000.

As I have asked many times through correspondence and in person, what is the minister prepared to do before tragedy strikes this community again? When, for example, will the result of the mediation be made public?