

Oral Questions

INQUIRY AS TO PRESENT DUTIES OF MR. FOSTER

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. Speaker, which arises out of the dismissal of Mr. John Foster, chief executive officer of AECL and a letter he directed to me in which he indicates he is still an employee of AECL. He further indicates that he accepts no responsibility for the mismanagement of AECL. I ask the minister to say what are Mr. Foster's present duties, and since he is no longer chief executive officer, has his salary been cut?

● (1130)

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Foster has no duties at present; he is on leave. As I told the House, I hope we shall succeed in working out some technical consulting assignment for him. I expect that may happen, and negotiations may take place in a couple of months.

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. On July 12 I attended, for the Government of Canada and on behalf of the Minister of Justice, the official opening of a magnificent and desperately needed extended care hospital in the riding of a Tory member who is not working hard—

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege—

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Order. Sit down.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

REVIEW OF ISSUANCE OF WRITS OF ASSISTANCE—REQUEST FOR REPORT

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, thank you for recognizing another Tory member who works damned hard.

Mr. Paproski: We all work hard on this side.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The minister may recall that for the past six months I have been concerned about writs of assistance. The minister said in March he was having the entire question reviewed thoroughly and would consider amendments to legislation which allows writs of assistance to be granted. Since his position on Bill C-51 has blown to smithereens his former reputation, such as it was, as a civil libertarian, has the minister good news for us with respect to writs of assistance?

[Mr. Gillespie.]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, my officials have been conducting the review I requested and informed me this week it has not yet been completed.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Within what time frame does the minister anticipate announcing his intentions? The matter has been before the minister some six months. Surely he has had the opportunity to come to a decision on this fundamental question, writs of assistance.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to come to a decision until the review is completed, at which point changes either in policy or legislation can be decided. If legislative changes are contemplated they will be announced in the usual way in this House by way of the introduction of legislation.

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LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE AT TELEGLOBE CANADA—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour. I gave him notice of it yesterday. It concerns the serious labour-management dispute between the Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Union and Teleglobe Canada. Some weeks ago the union took the unusual step, for a union, of asking for arbitration. Given that this union between 1950 and 1976 did not go on strike, relations being good, and given that Teleglobe Canada, a Crown corporation, has refused arbitration and said in a letter dated May 16, "... we however feel that the area of disagreement is not such as to lend itself to arbitration" even though the strike is in its seventh week, what is the minister's department doing, and has the minister been able to consult with the Minister of Communications with whom I raised this issue some weeks ago?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of the question and advise him that within an hour or two I may have good news for him. The parties met until 3.30 this morning. A proposal has been approved, subject to ratification. It is going before the general membership now. Naturally, I hope they accept it.

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PENITENTIARIES

RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT—PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSING REPORT

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General may I direct my question to the parliamentary secretary? It is now five weeks since an all-party committee tabled in this House a report on penitentiaries and many members of that committee, of which the parliamentary secretary was one, are anxious to see action