

PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED IN 1967

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, I am glad that the Acting Prime Minister mentioned precedents. I am going to ask him to take to the Prime Minister, when he reports on his activities in the discharge of his duties on this day, the record of a former Prime Minister, the late Right Hon. Mr. Pearson, a gentleman who had a higher degree of respect for the traditions and practices of this place than the present Prime Minister. Will the Minister convey the precedent to the Prime Minister of the resignation on September 18, 1967, of the then sitting Member for Colchester-Hants, Mr. Cyril Kennedy, and on the same day, September 18, 1967, a warrant was issued to the Chief Electoral Officer, and the day after that warrant, the then Prime Minister announced that the writ for the by-election was issued. That will all be found in *Hansard* for September 25, 1967.

An Hon. Member: What is your question?

Mr. Nielsen: My question is: will the Acting Prime Minister convey that very useful precedent, which was established by a gentleman who was far more familiar with the practices and precedents of this Parliament?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, obviously the Leader of the Opposition is trying to create a tempest in a teapot. I was here yesterday. The Prime Minister mentioned "one or two weeks". He mentioned "soon". I did not see anything particularly alarming in the statements which he made at the time. However, if my hon. friend would like to give me a copy of the note from which he was reading, I will gladly communicate it to the Prime Minister who might be impressed, who might be influenced, and who might not have to do that particular research if someone else already has done it.

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● (1450)

VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

DEFINITION OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITY

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. On June 21 an article in *The Globe and Mail*, following last week's conference on Canadian lobbying efforts in Washington, reported as follows:

On the acid rain issue, foreign service officers in our Washington Embassy have worked with U.S. environmentalists and other interest groups, treading the fine line between diplomacy and advocacy.

As the Secretary of State will know, existing regulations here in Canada provide that any Canadian charitable or voluntary agency considered by the Government to be lobbying public opinion can lose its charitable status. The Minister made a commitment in the House to review this issue by a task force—

Oral Questions

Madam Speaker: Order, please. That question is really going on for quite a long while. I will not allow the Hon. Member a supplementary if he goes on any longer.

Mr. McLean: Madam Speaker, in light of this Government precedent, would the Minister not agree that we are at a point where it is mandatory for an early investigation of the definition of "allowable charitable activity"?

[Translation]

Hon. Serge Joyal (Secretary of State): Madam Speaker, we share the Hon. Member's concern. I have said a number of times, both inside and outside the House, that one of the key elements of a comprehensive policy to help charitable organizations in Canada was to ensure that the Canadian tax system and our legislation reflect the concerns of contemporary society. In this connection, my colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, is continuing a study of the present tax laws so that if amendments are necessary, they will be tabled in the House and we shall be able to reflect the concerns of Canadian communities in our legislation.

[English]

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS

Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo): Madam Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Minister of Finance and concerns tax changes and the voluntary sector. He will know that in December of 1981 the National Voluntary Organizations presented to his Department a series of proposed amendments to the Income Tax Act concerning allowable charitable activities. Is the Minister now in a position to tell the House when we can expect to see the changes, based on this modern definition of charitable activity of which the Secretary of State speaks?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I am not in a position today to set a date in this respect.

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[English]

CANADIAN SECURITY INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

POSSIBLE STUDY OF LEGISLATION BY SENATE COMMITTEE

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General, who will know that in Toronto last night a large rally was held, with such prominent figures as Anglican Primate Ted Scott, retired Justice Emmett Hall, Doris Anderson, and even a former Liberal Solicitor General strongly condemning the Minister's proposed Orwellian security Bill.

In view of these and other widespread criticisms, and in view of the thundering silence of the Minister's own caucus and Cabinet colleagues on this Bill, how can he possibly justify his decision to ask a special Senate committee to study this Bill,