

Order Paper Questions

[English]

STARRED QUESTIONS

Mr. Ralph E. Goodale (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, would you be so kind as to call starred questions Nos. 188 and 903?

[Text]

*DREE—NEW BRUNSWICK FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

Question No. 188—**Mr. Fairweather:**

1. Does the New Brunswick Federation of Agriculture receive funds from DREE and, if so, has the Federation requested that consideration be given to a one-year extension of the funding under the DREE—N.B. General Development Agreement—(Agricultural sub-agreement)?

2. Has a decision been reached and, if so, on what date will an announcement be made?

[English]

Mr. Ed. Lumley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the reply from the department to the hon. member for Fundy-Royal (Mr. Fairweather) is in two parts. To parts (a) and (b) of question No. 1 is yes. The answer to question No. 2 is that a negative decision was reached by the joint federal-provincial management committee on September 8, 1976. The New Brunswick department of agriculture transmitted the decision to the federation within the week following the September 8 management committee meeting.

[Text]

*CASES UNDER HATE PROPAGANDA PROVISIONS OF THE CRIMINAL CODE

Question No. 903—**Mr. Woolliams:**

1. For the years 1970 to 1976, how many cases under the hate propaganda provisions of the Criminal Code were reported to the Attorney General of Canada?

2. In each case (a) what were the circumstances (b) what were the names of the accused (c) were any charges laid (d) where there any convictions and, if so, what sentence or sentences, if any, were imposed?

[English]

Mr. Mike Landers (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the Department of Justice does not possess the information sought in so far as the provinces are concerned. Pursuant to section 281.1 (3) of the Criminal Code, consent to prosecute in such a matter must be obtained from the Attorney General of the province where the offence took place. There is no obligation to report any such cases to the Attorney General of Canada. The only applications for consent which would be requested of the Attorney General of Canada would originate from the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. The records of the department do not indicate that any such applications were received or consented to during the period in question.

Mr. Goodale: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Mr. Abbott.]

STANDING ORDER 26

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—REQUEST FOR SPECIAL DEBATE

Mr. Speaker: I should inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 26 I have received notices from two hon. members on identical topics, the first being the hon. member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) and the second being the hon. member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn). Before I render a decision, I feel that I ought to let each of them at least read the notice they gave the Chair earlier, and then I could make a disposition.

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I ask leave to move the adjournment of the House under the terms of Standing Order 26 for which I have given appropriate notice. The Auditor General in his annual report yesterday recommended fundamental changes in the accounting practices of the government and urged their immediate implementation. He also stated:

I am deeply concerned that, on the evidence of the two-year examination carried out by the audit office, parliament—and indeed the government—has lost or is close to losing effective control of the public purse.

The matter has been thoroughly considered by the public accounts committee, and the committee has already made recommendations to the House, which have not been satisfactorily implemented. In view of this, Mr. Speaker, I believe the matter must be considered immediately by the House, and if you agree, I would move the appropriate motion.

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise under the provisions of Standing Order 26, and I have given the Chair prior notice. I ask leave, seconded by the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent), to move the adjournment of the House under Standing Order 26 for the purpose of discussing a specific and important matter requiring urgent consideration, namely, the statement of the Auditor General of Canada that parliament, and indeed the government, has lost, or is close to losing, effective control of the public purse and that strong, appropriate and effective measures are required to rectify this critically serious situation.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: I wish I had said that.

Mr. Speaker: As I indicated, both hon. members gave the Chair notice as required by Standing Order 26. As is easily seen, the subject matter of the two motions is certainly identical, and the motions are very close to being identical. The provisions of Standing Order 26 require the Chair, in deciding whether a matter ought to be given the consideration proposed under the rule—that is to say, that the business of the House be set aside or, alternatively, that within a day some time be set aside for a special debate on the subject matter—to bear in mind two very well-known considerations, one being the urgency of the matter itself, and the second being covered by subparagraph (5) of the Standing Order which requires the Chair to decide whether other opportunities might be available to discuss it if in fact the matter is of such a nature as to require the consideration of the House pursuant to the terms of the Standing Order.