

Oral Questions

● (1410)

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, on questions like this it is the Cabinet and not any single minister that makes the decision. I know I speak for all my colleagues when I say that when the Vaillancourt case does come before the Cabinet it will be discussed on its merits, and I am sure every member of the Cabinet will take his or her responsibility.

POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ABOLISHING DEATH PENALTY

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, in light of other comments made I would ask the Acting Prime Minister if it is the intention of the government within the next year to introduce amendments to the Criminal Code which will involve the complete abolition of the death penalty?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. gentleman knows, parliament must take action before the end of 1977. The government has not yet taken any decision as to when to introduce legislation or the form of that legislation.

* * *

INDUSTRY

MICROSYSTEMS—REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF REPORT OF AUDIT OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, considering the fact that it has been learned the government has now ordered an audit of the capital equipment owned by the federal government at Microsystems International, will the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce assure the House that the report of this audit will be made available to members of the House as soon as it is completed?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I will give that representation very careful consideration.

MICROSYSTEMS—SUGGESTION SOME CAPITAL EQUIPMENT MISSING—POSSIBILITY PRODUCT HAD A GOOD MARKET—NEED FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, would the minister inform the House whether he has received any preliminary reports on this audit that is taking place and, more specifically, has he been informed that a substantial amount of the capital equipment, originally financed by the federal government to a substantial extent, is in fact missing? Has he received any information to this effect and, if so, will he inform the House what further investigations the government is making into this matter?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have received no information that machinery is missing.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the minister smiles. I should like to suggest that this is not a laughing matter when millions of dollars of public investment is at stake. I hope the minister will have a serious look at the situation in light of these reports that a substantial amount of equipment is missing. Secondly, I would refer to market reports of professional trade journals and reports of other companies in the industry to the effect that the semiconductors produced by Microsystems do have a good potential market, contrary to what spokesmen for Bell Northern have said. This is distinctly the opposite side of the coin to that provided the government by spokesmen for Bell Northern as the reason for shutting down operations. In light of these reports, and the reports regarding the missing capital equipment from those facilities, will the minister take steps to bring about an inquiry into this situation under the Inquiries Act?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, I do not think an inquiry under the Inquiries Act is merited. I have indicated that we are discussing with Bell Northern the settlement of an outstanding loan with us, and I can assure the hon. member that we will be pursuing those negotiations.

* * *

[Translation]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

STRIKE OF LONGSHOREMEN IN QUEBEC—ACCESSIBILITY OF FEED GRAIN SUPPLIES

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Labour.

Considering that the special legislation which the Canadian Parliament adopted a while ago to force longshoremen at certain ports on the St. Lawrence River back to work has apparently not been complied with, can the minister advise the House of the steps he will take to protect those who have stored grain in terminals at these ports, so that they may obtain delivery without fear of pitting one group of workers against another, which would be highly detrimental to Canada?

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I would advise the hon. member that since the passage of the legislation in question no impediments have been placed in the way of the movement of grain, which has considerably alleviated the situation. So far as adherence to the legislation is concerned, we are still urging adherence and are taking appropriate legal action which is open to us under the law. As I understand the terms of the injunction hearing, the hearing will be held perhaps on Thursday.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

Since Canadian workers are apparently complying with orders originating outside Canada, would not the minister propose an alternate formula which would permit Canadian workers from now on to receive orders from within Canada?