

*Oral Questions*

written to me, and I am of course aware of this, to the extent where you will allow me to answer a hypothetical question, Mr. Speaker, this is what I would have replied.

To my mind, the freedom of the press is not really in jeopardy in this instance since in no country of the world is any press freer. In Montreal alone there are half dozen dailies, many weeklies, four television networks, seven or eight radio networks: that is certainly freedom of the press. Whether the government should help commercial undertakings through a commercial advertising is an entirely different matter, Mr. Speaker. I feel that the answer to that is based on notions of marketing, amongst others, and many other considerations.

**Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Is the Prime Minister of the opinion that the government departments should pay for advertisements in *Le Jour* to prove to them that anywhere else in the world those people would not be allowed to strive towards the destruction of their country, Canada?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I would certainly not suggest that idea to my colleagues of the cabinet. It may be that some of them feel that way but I would point out to the leader of the Social Crediters that *Le Jour* itself published, in its first editions, a code of ethics on publicity reserving itself the right to refuse some publicity. It may do so; that, I do not know, but as the question is hypothetical I have no intention of suggesting that recourse.

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● (1420)

[English]

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

#### INQUIRY WHETHER ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT TOWARDS STRIKING ASBESTOS WORKERS APPLIES TO ALL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Considering that the Prime Minister and certain of his cabinet colleagues have expressed solidarity with the cause of the striking asbestos workers in Quebec, referred to by the Prime Minister as "comrades", can the Prime Minister tell the House whether his support of these workers is indicative of the government's attitude today toward all collective bargaining negotiations throughout Canada?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I hope it is indicative of the feeling of all Liberals toward people who are engaged in difficult conflicts, particularly on questions like this when there is a matter of health involved.

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Can the Prime Minister assure the House that all of his cabinet colleagues whose names were attached to the message of solidarity were aware, at the time the message was sent, that their support had been given to the cause of the striking workers?

**Mr. Trudeau:** Mr. Speaker, I did not, of course, mail the telegram myself, but it was made in co-operation with two

[Mr. Trudeau.]

other ministers, or two other of my comrades, who were associated with me not only in the telegram that was sent by my office but in the telegram received by me.

#### EFFECT OF ATTITUDE OF GOVERNMENT TOWARDS STRIKING ASBESTOS WORKERS ON EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON RESTRAINT

**Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe):** Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question for the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister indicate to the House in what way he feels that this telegram sent by himself and his two comrades complements the efforts that he says he is making to arrive at a consensus with respect to our general economic condition at the present time?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this seems like an argumentative question. Perhaps I should tell the hon. member that it is very important, at least for people sitting on this side of the House, that feelings of humanity are expressed from time to time by the leaders of the country.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Fundy-Royal.

**Mr. Fairweather:** Mr. Speaker, I shall defer to a comrade.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The experimental rules under which we are operating provide no procedure for recognizing a minister at this point. Specifically, there was a recommendation from the committee that we try to eliminate interventions by way of points of order or in other ways. Unless the minister can indicate to me that there is some pressing necessity to recognize him at this time, I would have to go on to the next question.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** It is because my name was mentioned in the question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Fundy-Royal.

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### PUBLIC SERVICE

#### RIGHT OF EMPLOYEES TO TESTIFY BEFORE BERGER COMMISSION

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I would hope that the minister is prepared to say for the record that it is the policy of the government that employees are free to testify at the Mackenzie pipeline inquiry being conducted by Mr. Justice Berger without any prior permission or conditions, and that this is a right these employees have as citizens of this country.

**Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development):** That is the policy of the government, Mr. Speaker.