

this particular solution was not appropriate for the people concerned, and that is why we are seeking better solutions.

\* \* \*

[English]

### PENSIONS

#### AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—REVIEW OF PRIVATE PENSION PLANS

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The Auditor General's Report revealed that only some 40 private pension plans out of some 750 had been reviewed in the past 15 years by federal regulators. Does the Minister truly believe that that is a sufficient review? Does he have any specific plans for improving the review process of private pension plans?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, as indicated last week, we felt this was an important recommendation of the Auditor General. We do not believe that there is an immediate problem. In fact it was found that it was necessary to review, as the Hon. Member pointed out, only 40 of some 750 pension funds. The Department is looking into the advisability of increasing the regulatory nature of its work and will be responding in due course to the useful recommendation of the Auditor General.

\* \* \*

### CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

#### INDEPENDENCE OF TRIBUNAL

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I want to return, with the Minister of Justice, to the subject raised by my colleague. He knows that the Canadian human rights tribunal often has to protect the rights of individuals against a Government. He also knows that this week the national Bank of Canada is challenging the independence of that tribunal and arguing that it is not independent on the grounds of the partisanship of some of its members. Is the Minister of Justice prepared to review these partisan appointments of individuals who have bragged about their credentials and loyalty to the Progressive Conservative Party, and appoint people who are truly independent, so that the commission will be able to stand up to scrutiny by the court?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, with the greatest of deference, I do not have to be lectured by the Liberal Party and the Hon. Member about partisanship and appointments. The reality is that it is a very important tribunal. No one takes it more seriously than I do. I want to ensure that the people are of the highest competence and quality. Indeed I have never seen any reference on any material which has come before me,

### Oral Questions

in terms of the appointments for which I was responsible, in respect of political affiliation. Is the Hon. Member saying that people involved in politics should not be appointed? That is what I want to ask him—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think Hon. Members will know that when a question verges on the argumentative, often the response is much the same.

#### INTEGRITY OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

**Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre):** Mr. Speaker, does the Minister not recognize how particularly vulnerable are commissions such as this one and how important it is that the integrity of the members be patently clear, so that they will not be struck down by courts and the administrative procedures will survive?

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, I think that question is a good one. As we now sit here in the House, the Department and my officials are consulting widely on amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act respecting the operations of the commission. There are defects in its operations, as we all know and as was pointed out by us in opposition. I am prepared to receive representations and will continue to consult to ensure that we have the best Human Rights Commission in the world.

\* \* \*

### TRADE

#### EXEMPTIONS SECURED BY COMPANIES FROM UNITED STATES COUNTERVAIL DUTY

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Forestry and Mines. I am sure the Minister is aware that some lumber producing companies have been given exemptions from the 15 per cent preliminary countervail duty imposed 10 days ago. Could the Minister indicate why no efforts were made at the federal level to advise Canadian companies of their possible exemption from the 15 per cent countervail?

**Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (Minister of State (Forestry and Mines):** Mr. Speaker, the trade rules are well known by most companies. It was widely covered in the media. It has been talked about widely by myself and by other members of the Cabinet. Many companies applied and many were given exemptions.

#### NOTIFICATION OF COMPANIES ELIGIBLE FOR EXEMPTIONS

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister for International Trade. As I am sure she is aware, the Government provided to U.S. authorities a list of companies certified by the Government of Canada as eligible for those exemptions. Would she explain to the House why, at the same time as she was advising American