

the House leader at the time. There was no indication that he wished to debate the motion, and therefore I am caught a little by surprise. I would simply indicate that citations 459 and 460 of Beauchesne refer directly to the point.

If Your Honour is influenced by the second argument, namely that the bill—a private bill, in my estimation—being presented has some public interest because it deals with a matter of public concern, and if Your Honour is inclined to find that there is some merit in this argument, I would ask Your Honour to put this matter over in order that perhaps better argument may be prepared.

Mr. Speaker: I thank both hon. members for their intervention. The reference to the citation by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Blais) has saved me the trouble of making the reference. It seems to me to be a very clear citation. The reference by the hon. member for New Westminster (Mr. Leggatt) to the Steven Truscott case indeed challenges the imagination of students of parliamentary procedure. Fortunately, perhaps, some of these miracles are possible without full explanation of exactly how the arguments were achieved. Again, I can only say that it is another indication of the mastery of the proponent of this particular bill that seems, in the humble opinion of the Chair, to run totally counter to the procedures in the way they are set out so clearly in the citation referred to by the hon. parliamentary secretary.

The fact of the matter is that the bill before us at the present time is a proposal to exempt or to except from the operation of the general law one person, namely, Dr. Henry Morgentaler. I cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be persuaded that this is the subject matter of a public bill or that it is in any way an alteration of the general law. It is an alteration or exception, for one person, of the application of the law, and it seems crystal clear to me to be the subject matter of a private member's private bill and not a public bill.

The hon. member put forward some very eloquent arguments about the urgency and the importance of the matter, which would certainly go to the merits of the bill and would be part of the entreaty to other members to support it. Procedurally, I feel that despite every careful consideration of the hon. member's very interesting arguments, we are left with no other choice than to decide that the matter is really a proper subject matter not of a public bill but of a private bill.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

[English]

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: 28, 1,332, 2,404, 3,130.

Order Paper Questions

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER'S RESIDENCE

Question No. 28—Mr. Cossitt:

1. With reference to the answer to Part 3 of Question No. 88 of the Second Session of the 29th Parliament to the effect that all but one of the architects, designers, interior decorators or consultants performing work at 24 Sussex Drive were not selected by the Department of Public Works, what is the complete identity of the individual or individuals who selected (a) Herbert-Lalonde, Designers of Montreal (b) Professor E. Arthur, Designer of Toronto (c) Francisco Ltd., Interior Decorators of Montreal (d) Mrs. Louis V. Beveridge, Interior Decorator of Toronto?

2. What are the names of any persons whatsoever who in any way recommended the services of these people?

3. Have any of those named in the answer to Question No. 88 of the Second Session of the 29th Parliament done any other work whatsoever for the government in the past ten years and, if so, on what dates, what was the work and what was the fee paid?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): I am informed by the Prime Minister's and Privy Council Offices and the Department of Public Works as follows: 1 and 2. It has always been government practice that occupants of official residences should have final say in their family environment and who best can provide it.

3. (a) In 1968, the firm of Julien Hebert, 430 Bonsecours Ave., Montreal, Quebec provided the design, fabrication and installation of the fountain in the National Arts Centre for the amount of \$25,000. (b) The firm of Hebert-Lalonde, Architects and Designers, prepared plans and specifications for the Department of Public Works in the following places, on the dates indicated and for the amounts listed: Chicoutimi, June 3, 1974, \$750; Pointe Claire, June 3, 1974, \$750; Ste-Foy, June 3, 1974, \$750; Ville d'Anjou, June 3, 1974, \$750.

TOXIC BILGE CLEANING

Question No. 1,332—Mr. Forrestall:

1. (a) What is the position of the government on the use by non-government vessels of toxic bilge cleaning substances (b) what regulations exist governing the use of toxic bilge cleaners (c) on what date and where were these proclaimed?

2. Is this in accord with the statements on the ocean environment contained in the "New Oceans Policy" announced July 12, 1973 by the Minister of State for Science and Technology?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (President of the Privy Council): In so far as the Department of the Environment is concerned: 1. (a) The government does not have a position on the use per se of toxic bilge cleaning substances by non-government vessels. It does have a position relevant to the disposal of bilge cleaning substances and bilge wastes, viz.—No substance which is, or contains, oil of any kind in any form shall be released into Canadian waters (including fishing zones). For bilge cleaning substances which are not oil or do not contain oil of any kind or in any form, the position of the government is that wastes containing such substances can be deposited into Canadian waters only if it can be shown that they are not toxic to aquatic life (i.e. deleterious substances as defined in the Fisheries Act). The Department of the Environment, on request from the Ministry of Transport (which has the responsibility for pollution from vessels), would assess the substance and, on the basis of bioassay tests and existing