

very wholesome blending of Canadian technology with fresh capital to create a new international manufacturing concern that will have British Telecom as its sponsor.

BOOK PUBLISHING COMPANIES

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg-Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, we go back to the original point. It is not just the fresh infusion of capital. It is the loss of control and development in this country that is of major concern to Canadians.

I draw to the Minister's attention another example where the lack of government policy is resulting in new acquisitions in the book publishing industry. Over six months ago Prentice-Hall had an application for a takeover. No decision has been taken. We now have two other proposed takeover bids for Canadian book publishing companies because of the lack of a decision. When can we expect an immediate decision rejecting the applications of Prentice-Hall and Gulf and Western so that we can clearly maintain and control the ownership and destiny of Canadian culture in our book publishing industry? When is he going to give this country an answer, and quit flip-flopping and being indecisive like he is with everything else?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I have already given the Hon. Member the assurance that all undertakings, as far as we are concerned, will be expected to be honoured. Of course, we have to pass, as far as the FIRA operation is concerned, on this new acquisition of equity in Mitel. All I am saying is that the deal has only been agreed to this morning. An application will be forthcoming, at which time we will review it under the present provisions of FIRA. I can assure the Hon. Member that Canadian interests will be very much, as far as we are concerned, preserved in connection with the Mitel deal.

As far as the second reference is concerned, the Prentice-Hall deal, as the Hon. Member knows, that is presently before FIRA and there will be a decision shortly.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED CABINET DOCUMENT LEAK

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General. The Minister knows that the RCMP are investigating a leak of the Nielsen document which recommends a \$310 million cut from Indian Affairs programs, that the individual responsible for the leak has now identified himself to the police and given his reasons for what he did, and yet intense interrogation of other officials and others in the Government is continuing.

Will the Minister assure the House that this is a normal RCMP investigation in which the police are not taking orders or directions from the Government, that charges will be laid if the RCMP feel they should be laid, and that in this process the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are not being used politically

Oral Questions

to intimidate officials of DIAND and to teach a lesson to others in the Government who have custody of classified documents?

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I certainly have no hesitation whatsoever in giving my colleague the assurances that he requests.

NATURE OF DOCUMENT

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, if that is the case, then to clear the air I think the Minister, on behalf of the Government, should finally identify that a leak has occurred and that the RCMP are investigating a real government document which has in fact been leaked and been made public.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the representation given by the former Minister, but I should also refer to the dictum of his Leader who suggested, not that many months ago, that it would be very unwise to make any comments or give any information unless and until charges had been laid.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

AIR CANADA—STRIKE BY TICKET AGENTS

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. It concerns the strike at Air Canada, a strike which involves as much a matter of principle as does the one that is currently taking place at Eaton's, a private corporation. As the Prime Minister knows, two-thirds of those involved are women. The issue at question is Air Canada's attempt to turn well paid full-time jobs into part-time poorly paid jobs. Considering that this involves a matter of principle, namely, the question of equality for women, will the Prime Minister directly intervene and tell Air Canada that it should be taking us forward, not backwards, and that the negotiating stance it has is totally unacceptable?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will recall that there was a task force in 1983 having to do with part-time employment. The forecast at the time was that there would be more part-time employment, and that there was a need and a desire to ensure that working conditions for part-time employees would improve. Having regard to the fact that Air Canada employs a number of part-time people and that there needs to be that required flexibility, there is on the negotiating table the desire to increase the number of part-time workers.

Under the current agreement the part-time workers have no pension provisions, no dental care provisions, no disability or sick leave benefits, and no seniority. All of these issues are being addressed under the terms of the proposed collective agreement that Air Canada is trying to negotiate with the union.