

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have no information on that subject.

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● (1440)

**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****CMHC—LIBEL SUIT INITIATED BY EMPLOYEE AGAINST SOLICITOR GENERAL**

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General of Canada. Is the Solicitor General aware that Ian Keith Carruthers of CMHC, one of the public servants who is alleged to have been named in the infamous letter by his paranoiac predecessor, has now issued a writ in the courts suing the present Solicitor General for libel and for negligence, and also joining in that suit the minister's predecessor, the Minister of Supply and Services? Is he aware of that, and has that writ been served upon him as yet? Furthermore, would he make himself available for service?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, no writ has been served on me in connection with that. A few hon. members have been nice enough to forewarn me that that seems to be in process.

**CRIMINAL CODE—POSSIBLE OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE BY GOVERNMENT MEMBERS OR EMPLOYEES RESPECTING BREAK-INS, ETC.**

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Justice. Has the minister examined the provisions of the Criminal Code dealing with obstruction of justice and the jurisprudence under that section in order to see if members of the government at any level, or anyone with knowledge of such offences as break-ins, have done nothing and have not revealed the facts which were brought to their attention, in order to see if criminal charges could be brought against them? Has the minister examined that section, and if not, does he intend to do so?

**Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, that section and its application have been examined with reference to the various instances in which a number of Crown officers either federal or provincial have been involved.

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**LABOUR CONDITIONS****SYDNEY STEEL PLANT—PAYMENT OF UIC BENEFITS TO EMPLOYEES—SUGGESTION CNR ACT TO PREVENT SHUTDOWN**

**Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister. The Sydney Steel Corporation has announced that it will close down its plant for five weeks commencing July 1. In view of the fact that unemployment in the area of the plant is running near 25 per cent, and in view of the fact that many of the

[Mr. MacKay.]

steelworkers will go two weeks without vacation pay or UIC benefits, will the cabinet instruct the CNR to buy and stockpile rails so that this shutdown does not have to occur?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member's question is in the nature of a representation, which we will consider.

**CNR ACTION TO ALLEVIATE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION—DISCUSSIONS WITH SYSCO**

**Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is to the Minister of Transport. Since even steelworkers with 25 and 30 years' seniority at the plant will be affected because the company scheduled vacations earlier in the year so that too many vacations would not occur at the same time, will the Minister of Transport advise the House if he has requested the CNR to give special consideration to SYSCO to avert this situation?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have drawn the problems of SYSCO to the attention of Canadian National and I believe some discussions have been held. In addition, more discussions will be held to see what can be done. The Canadian National management is extremely sympathetic to the problem.

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**ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE****ORGANIZED CRIME—REQUEST THAT ROYAL COMMISSION STUDY SITUATION**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** I wish to direct a question either to the Solicitor General or to the Minister of Justice. I have listened to the various questions and answers in connection with the revelations last night, and I must say that I am perturbed by the indifference shown by both ministers.

**Some hon. Members:** Shame.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Only recently it was said that Canada was a happy hunting-ground for international thugs. Having regard to recommendations made some years ago by Judge Macdonald and his commission in Windsor, and also having regard to the crime commission meetings in the province of Quebec which did a magnificent job, it is apparent that the problem has become overwhelmingly difficult for the government of Canada, and apparently for the ministers. Under the circumstances, and in order to clarify the whole situation, will the government appoint a royal commission, as recommended eight years ago and also as suggested by the Quebec commission, so that Canada will cease to be, among the western nations of the world, a country in which international wrong-