

Routine Proceedings

are going without those cheques before Christmas. Many of those families are dependant on those cheques to make their Christmas.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for her representation. I can assure her I will bring it to the department's attention and to the minister's attention to see what can be done, taking into consideration the Christmas spirit and the concerns that I am sure all members and these families will feel.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Mr. Speaker, the following questions will be answered today; Nos. 130, 143, 158, 172 and 173.

[Text]

SUPPLY OF RADIATION EQUIPMENT OR MATERIALS TO DELMED, IN EL SALVADOR

Question No. 130—Mr. Caccia

1. Has Nordion International or its corporate predecessor supplied radiation equipment or materials to Delmed, a company located in El Salvador and, if so (a) what (i) kinds (ii) quantities (b) on what dates (c) has Nordion International monitored, inspected or serviced this equipment or material and, if so, (i) on what dates (ii) what is done on such occasions?

2. Is the government aware of any accidents at Delmed involving radioactive material and, if so (a) on what dates did the accidents occur (b) what happened at each event?

3. Has Nordion International accepted any legal or contractual responsibility for the safe operation of equipment it sells to foreign operations?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): In 1975, the predecessor to Nordion International Inc., Commercial Products Division, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, supplied a Cobalt-60 medical products sterilizer to a firm in El Salvador. The present owner is Delmed SA. An equipment failure in 1975 resulted in the supplier returning to repair the facility. No injuries or radiation exposures occurred. Normal

procedure is for the owner to request the Cobalt-60 source to be renewed every few year, at which time Nordion checks and refurbishes the equipment where needed. The civil war in El Salvador prevented this. Nordion did keep up telephone contacts with Delmed over the years and issued them product bulletins as they were produced. The Government is aware of an accident at Delmed on February 5, 1989 in which the radioactive source became jammed. Three Delmed staff members entered the irradiator contrary to all procedures. To do so, they had to override safety features and systems. The operators in fact, had modified the plant so the built-in safety features did not prevent their entry. They received serious radiation over-exposure resulting in one death and the serious illness of two others. Nordion was called on February 10 and rendered the plant inoperable. Immediately upon learning of the injury to the operators, Nordion notified the appropriate authorities. The safe operation of the facility is the responsibility of the operator subject to any applicable governmental requirements in El Salvador. Canada has no authority over the plant or its operation. There is no fault or liability to Nordion, which has acted as responsible supplier throughout the history of the plant and the incident.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROPOSED GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Question No. 143—Mr. Boudria:

At the present time, in the National Capital Region, is the government leasing any office space for the administration of the proposed goods and services tax and, if so (a) what is the number of square metres leased by each government department (b) for each building containing such space (i) what is the address (ii) what is the number of square metres leased (iii) what is the cost of leasing the space (c) what is the total estimated cost of preparing the spaces for occupancy, including (i) design and building improvements (ii) installation of furniture and office equipment, including any computers purchased, leased or rented (iii) any other expense incurred?

Hon. Otto John Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue):

Taxation

No, at the present time Public Works Canada is not leasing any space on behalf of Revenue Canada Taxation for the administration of the proposed goods and services tax in the National Capital Region.