

Oral Questions

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, whatever legislation will be brought down, will be brought down in due course, and sentences will be shown in it. I assure the hon. member that, in my opinion, there is not an argument generally for having long mandatory sentences included in the Criminal Code.

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[Translation]

BILINGUALISM**SUGGESTION BILINGUAL BONUS BE GRANTED TO QUEBEC EMPLOYEES BEFORE END OF YEAR**

Mr. Serge Joyal (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the President of the Treasury Board a question following others which were put to him previously in the House.

Considering that the Official Languages Act grants parity of salaries to civil servants working in bilingual positions throughout Canada, and considering that secretaries working in bilingual positions in Quebec are paid the 7 per cent bonus granted for bilingualism, can the President of the Treasury Board tell the House if the representatives of the Public Service Alliance of Canada and those of the Treasury Board are agreed and will rush through the discussions so that the salary scale for civil servants working in Quebec in positions classified as bilingual may be reviewed before the end of this year?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, this is a major problem which does not concern only such civil servants who are working in Quebec; it concerns also all civil servants working in both languages throughout Canada. We are making progress and hope a solution will be found very shortly. On the other hand, as far as the reference to bilingual secretaries is concerned, the policy which had been announced several years ago to meet an emergency was an exceptional one. As for other functions, we intend to follow a different path than the one which was then followed, namely granting a 7 per cent bonus.

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[English]

FOREIGN INVESTMENT**APPLICATION OF SWIFT COMPANY TO PURCHASE CHECKERBOARD FOODS—REQUEST FOR EARLY ACTION**

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I shall direct a supplementary to his colleague the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In the absence of the former minister, may I direct my question to his parliamentary secretary? Is the minister aware of an application from Swift Canadian Co. Ltd., to purchase the property and equipment of Checkerboard Foods Ltd. of Ingersoll, Ontario, which is presently before the Bureau of Competition Policy of his department, with interviews scheduled for tomorrow, and is he aware that failure to process this application by January 1, 1976, will result in 160 people being laid off in Ingersoll as of that date?

[Mr. Woolliams.]

Mr. Art Lee (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lee: I am aware that an application for this acquisition is presently under consideration by the Foreign Investment Review Agency. In the course of their review process the agency seeks the advice of the Bureau of Competition Policy in my department as to the competitive effects of such acquisitions. The director of the Combines Investigation Act has already provided the Foreign Investment Review Agency with his views on the proposed acquisition. However, both the Foreign Investment Review Act and the Combines Investigation Act require that their proceedings be carried out in private until such time as such proceedings may become public in the ways allowed under the legislation. I am not aware of the details relating to this matter and I am not aware of any reason why the target plant will be closed on January 1, 1976.

APPLICATION OF SWIFT COMPANY FOR PURCHASE OF CHECKERBOARD FOODS—REASON FOR REVIEW BY BOARD

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, may I address my supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce? With further reference to the same application of Swift Canadian Co. Ltd. to purchase only the real estate and equipment of Checkerboard Foods Ltd., why is it necessary that the Foreign Investment Review Agency approve of this transaction, when no inventory, stock or accounts receivable are involved, acknowledging that if the target company were to have shut down and laid off its staff a few months ago a sale of the property now would not come under the purview of the Foreign Investment Review Agency?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, if I may give chapter 2 of the reply?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Jamieson: As hon. members know, it is not appropriate to discuss matters before the Foreign Investment Review Agency; but I am sure note will be taken of the hon. member's representation.

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MULTICULTURALISM**REASON FOR DOWNGRADING THIRD LANGUAGE TEACHING IN SCHOOLS**

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour who is responsible for the program of multiculturalism. Since the O'Brien report and the Canadian Consultative Council on multiculturalism stressed the absolute necessity for third language teaching in schools, if the multicultural character of Canada is to survive, why has the minister downgraded such help for language training in schools?