

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister, who seems to be fully informed on the subject, whether these people would be travelling with Canadian passports?

Mr. Stanbury: Mr. Speaker, that question ought to be directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, no doubt it should be. I will take up the matter with him.

Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the effect of the statute of limitations, under which the opprobrium of the country may be rendered ineffective after seven years, would it not be reasonable for the government to cancel the citizenship of these persons in order to avoid the possibility of their returning to Canada?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is an argument, not a question.

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the minister has indicated that this could only be done by introducing a special Act of Parliament, can the minister advise us whether the government has ruled out the introduction of such an Act in order to cancel the citizenship of these people?

Mr. Stanbury: No, Mr. Speaker. The government as a whole has not given consideration to this step, although I have examined it. If the hon. member or others wish to make any representations on this subject, we shall be glad to receive them.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**HIRING OF UNITED STATES CITIZEN AS PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER**

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. I hope that he will be able to resume his seat in time to answer it. About a week ago, Mr. Speaker, I asked his Parliamentary Secretary if, before hiring an American citizen to head the public relations department of the CBC, the government had considered all other possibilities. I further asked if he would inform the House as to whether this same individual had until recently been an employee of the United States consulate. At that time the Parliamentary Secretary informed the House that the Secretary of State would provide an answer.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, when the question was asked I was away on a mission abroad. I have not seen my Parliamentary Secretary since I returned, therefore I am not aware of what the hon. member is saying. I shall look into the matter before giving him an answer.

[Mr. Stanbury.]

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH DEPARTMENT**

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Government House Leader. Since he is just leaving the opposition benches, may I, in the meantime, direct it to the Prime Minister. Can the right hon. gentleman tell us when we can expect legislation to establish the proposed department of the environment which was recommended earlier in the session? Could we have an answer to that question?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, we expect to give notice of this very shortly, possibly today or tomorrow.

Mr. Lundrigan: A supplementary question to the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Minister of Public Works whether the functions of his department relating to the establishment of public works facilities for the fishing industry of Canada will be transferred to the new department of the environment?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think that in asking a detailed question of this kind the hon. member is anticipating an order of the day.

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HEALTH**INCLUSION OF PARAMEDICAL SERVICES UNDER MEDICARE**

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Health and Welfare looks relatively relaxed today so I shall direct a question to him. Would the minister kindly define what he means by "consensus", as that word applies to the inclusion of paramedical services under medicare?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. For the time being the minister will have to continue resting.

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, may I rephrase my question.

An hon. Member: Yes, the hon. member should.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member wish to rephrase his question?

Mr. Rose: Mr. Speaker, I will do my best. May I ask the minister whether he does not feel that the inclusion of paramedical services under medicare ought to be proceeded with in a manner identical to that followed in the case of medicare itself, that is, by allowing each province to enter the scheme when it felt it was ready to do so?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am still doubtful about the question as asked from a procedural standpoint. The hon. member is making a proposition or suggestion to the House. I think a question asked in those terms is not in order. Perhaps the hon. member might give the matter some further thought. For the moment, I will recognize the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe.