

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

CONVICTION OF CLIFFORD WILLIAMS—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice which I do in the light of an article by Sidney Katz in the current issue of *Macleans* magazine. Will the minister, in the interests of justice and humanity, make an immediate further review of the case of Clifford Williams and, if the facts are as stated in the article, order a remission to bring the sentence into conformity with the nature and circumstances of the offence?

Hon. Stuart S. Garson (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank my hon. friend for having given me notice of his question. As he probably knows, all matters of remission and commutation are under the care of the Solicitor General. Since the hon. member gave me his notice I have had an opportunity of speaking only briefly to the Solicitor General who tells me that he has had this case under active consideration for quite some time. After I have had a further opportunity of discussing the details of it with him, I shall be glad to make a report to the house.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. May I say that I attempted to file this question yesterday and was informed that it was an improper question to ask because the matter did not come within the purview of this parliament. I am glad, however, that the question has been asked and that it has been answered to the extent that it has been answered.

TRADE

INQUIRY AS TO PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIAN DELEGATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. H. R. Argue (Assiniboia): In the absence of the Minister of Trade and Commerce I should like to address a question to the Prime Minister. Would the Prime Minister care to comment on the report in this morning's press that trade negotiations involving a sale of many millions of dollars' worth of wheat with the Russian delegation are now in the final stage? Can the Prime Minister say when the negotiations will be finalized and the results made public?

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): I cannot say when the negotiations will be finalized. They have not yet reached a point where it would be appropriate to make any statement. I do not think it would be

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helpful for me to make any comment whatsoever one way or another on the story which is in the press this morning.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

PROVISION FOR CONTINUATION OF CERTIFICATION OF UNIONS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is the government preparing to take any necessary steps to make provision for continuation of all certifications under the Industrial Relations and Disputes Investigation Act regardless of any changes of union names that may result from the coming merger of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and the Canadian Congress of Labour into what will be known as the Canadian Labour Congress?

Hon. Milton F. Gregg (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend kindly sent me notice of this question which I received this morning. The information he desires is, of course, related to the work of the Canada labour relations board and a matter in which the heads of the national labour unions are interested. I think I should like to have further time to discuss the matter with the chairman of the board and with the heads of the congresses before I make a statement on it.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

USE OF TELEVISION ELSEWHERE THAN AT PETERBOROUGH

On the orders of the day:

Mr. G. K. Fraser (Peterborough): I should like to address a question to the Postmaster General or in his absence to his parliamentary assistant. Is the article in the *Montreal Gazette* of this morning under the heading "Ottawa" correct wherein it is stated as follows:

Informants say that the Post Office Department has reluctantly decided against applying its Peterborough T.V. snooping experiments in post offices elsewhere.

Mr. T. A. M. Kirk (Parliamentary Assistant to the Postmaster General): Unfortunately I have not seen the article in the *Montreal Gazette* and the notice of the question just reached my desk since the orders of the day were called. If I were to answer the question, I would be forced to remove two of the qualifying words. I do think that the report given by the Postmaster General on Tuesday, January 24, is very full and very accurate.