

Oral Questions

right action to take. For the present, our main purpose is to put pressure on the Soviet Union to provide the cash.

STOCKHOLM TALKS

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister. Would the Minister indicate what agreement was arrived at in Stockholm with respect to ongoing negotiations, in the earnest hope that compensation would be forthcoming from the Soviet Union? Specifically, did the Minister receive any assurance from Mr. Gromyko, or any other Soviet official, that negotiations would begin immediately?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I did raise with Mr. Gromyko the issue of compensation. I told him that it was still an important bilateral question, along with human rights, which we wished to discuss further with the Soviet Union. That message was quite plainly given to the Soviet Union.

I further suggested that these matters ought to be further discussed by officials, and that was also listened to by the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Mr. Stevens: What was his reply?

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PETRO-CANADA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST GUIDELINES—APPLICATION TO EMPLOYEES

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. He is just walking out. May I trouble the gentleman to return?

I am curious as to whether the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources could indicate whether he imposes any conflict of interest guidelines on those individuals employed in Crown corporations under his jurisdiction? If he does so, would he make those guidelines available to Hon. Members of this House of Commons?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the conflict of interest guidelines in every Crown corporation and Government are the same. I do not know if the Hon. Member is referring to a certain problem, but if he has a problem he should give me the particulars and I will see if there is some conflict of interest.

REQUEST THAT GUIDELINES BE MADE PUBLIC

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, the Minister refused to answer the second part of my question as to whether those conflict of interest guidelines would be made available to Members of Parliament. The Minister, incidentally, Mr. Speaker, is the one shareholder of Petro-Canada on behalf of

all Canadians. In view of the fact that we are talking about a considerable amount of taxpayers' money, would the Minister be kind enough to explain why senior management officials in Petro-Canada would not make available to my office the conflict of interest guidelines as they relate to themselves? Would he also give me the commitment that he will make those guidelines available to Hon. Members of this House?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the guidelines that apply to Crown corporations and government employees are outlined in public documents and the Hon. Member can consult them. If he wants me to send him a copy of those guidelines, I can arrange for one to be sent to him, but he should normally have them already in his files for the same guidelines apply to Petro-Canada and other Crown corporations.

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[*English*]

CANADA ELECTIONS ACT

PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE CALLING OF BY-ELECTIONS

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Prime Minister. As he knows, the basis of democratic rule depends on representation from constituents. The Canadian law on by-elections and representation has been discussed for six years or eight years now, and is the most outmoded in the western world. Has the Prime Minister contemplated any changes to amend the by-election provisions of our law so by-elections will be held sooner?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, nor do I agree with the Hon. Member when he says these laws have been discussed for many years. I have heard no such discussion, in this House or out of it.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BY-ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Certainly, Mr. Speaker, it has been discussed in a Private Member's Bill which I introduce in 1976 when we were looking at the by-election in St. John's East and in Ottawa-Carleton.

An Hon. Member: St. John's West.

Mr. Dick: At that time it was seconded by the then Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton, the Late Hon. Walter Baker. I was wondering whether the Prime Minister was soon going to announce a by-election in the constituency of Nepean-Carleton, as well as a by-election in the constituency of Laval-des-Rapides?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will make such an announcement within the provisions of the law as supported by the Party of the Hon. Member.