

Oral Questions

Revenue has been outstanding. It has not been clarified. Can the Minister give that assurance?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I said that a small number of federal government employees were involved, but I would not want to identify them. I said that the large number referred to in the article was not correct. I might say as well that the release of this information was not authorized. It was due to a misunderstanding. Some measures have been taken to correct that.

Mr. Nowlan: Can the minister advise whether the officials that have been involved are still working or have they been suspended?

Mr. Allmand: I cannot say that, Mr. Speaker.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

SUGGESTION RELEASE OF MORE INFORMATION WOULD
OBVIATE NECESSITY FOR ACTION BY TRADE UNION
REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. It arises out of the question asked by the leader of the New Democratic Party. I may not be a Jesuit, but I cannot follow the tortuous and convoluted reasoning of the NDP leader. Without taking sides on the philosophical problem, does the Prime Minister agree that if more information is disclosed of the nature which had been kept secret here, thus persuading the civil servant in question to make public the information he did, but if more information was revealed which should be revealed, this kind of incident would not take place.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, not knowing the details of the case, the question seems kind of theoretical to me. It seems that the kind of criticism which is being made here is the kind we should be hearing more about from the opposition, if it were doing its job.

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. We would do our job if the government would have the courage to disclose the facts.

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HEALTH

OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA—INQUIRY AS TO TRACING SOURCE
OF INFECTION AND CHECKING OF VACCINE

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to address a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the cholera outbreak among students returning from a trip to the Far East and the Middle East, and as this disease has a short incubation period, was a tracer put on their travel route to pinpoint the source or possible source of the infection? Since this disease has a mortality rate of 5 to 10 per cent and high cost health care, has the number of the stock vaccine been

[Mr. Nowlan.]

checked and reported to the manufacturer and have all contacts been reported on?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I cannot answer with regard to the stock of the vaccine, but I will inquire and give the information to the hon. member. As far as the particular students are concerned, they have all been taken into hospitals for tests, either as in-patients or out-patients. Only one case has been diagnosed as having cholera. I would point out that this was not the classical kind of cholera, but a much milder kind. All the students have been examined and they are all out of hospital at the present time. All the contacts have been reached and we do not expect any further developments in this particular incident.

Mr. Rynard: The minister did not answer all of my first question. Can he advise whether they have gone back over the travel route to pinpoint where this infection might be picked up so that other tourists can be prevented from calling there or having it cleaned up?

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I am informed that the group of students were visiting India. One person in particular got sick at a stopover in the Netherlands. That student was treated there. She returned with a nurse and with a diagnosis of salmonella poisoning. Only subsequently did we hear from Holland that after further checks and analysis, they concluded that it was not a case of salmonella but, rather, some kind of cholera. We were then in touch with the student immediately.

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PUBLIC WORKS

REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN REGULATIONS TO PERMIT PEOPLE
IN NORTHERN AREAS TO RENT PREMISES OWNED BY
DEPARTMENT

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Public Works, I will address this important question to the Prime Minister. In view of the housing crisis in the Northwest Territories and the fact that in the Yukon small apartments are renting for as much as \$400 a month, and in view of the fact the Department of Public Works have vacant in the Yukon 130 homes, 200 detached homes and some apartments and some of the homes have been vacant for as long as five years, and in view of the fact there is a regulation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Will the hon. member put his question.

Mr. Gilbert: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact there is a regulation—

Some hon. Members: Order!

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member put his question?

Mr. Gilbert: I am directing this to the Prime Minister. I hope he listens. In view of the fact there is a regulation of the Department of Public Works not to rent to employees who are local people who reside in the area, will the Prime