

North Dakota. It is further anticipated that, if this happens this afternoon, the measure will be passed through the United States Senate later tonight.

Given the devastating effect this project will have on Manitoba, can the minister tell the House what action he has taken today to ensure that this contemplated action by the United States does not take place?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that I will be issuing a press statement later on saying that we presented a note on this subject to the United States yesterday. If I may quote briefly from the note, we expressed the serious concern of the Canadian government that important new funds may be appropriated for the Garrison River diversion project. We are especially concerned about this because it is a rider to a bill on another subject and so might not receive proper consideration. We therefore took this unusual step of expressing our views in strong language in a note to the United States government. We welcome the endorsement of the opposition, which I think we have, in expressing our feelings on this matter.

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, I am sure the Americans are shaking in their boots after that strong note. Officials of the Canadian embassy in Washington expressed their view this morning that the measure is going to get through the Senate and will, therefore, become effective law because this particular measure is attached to a broader bill and cannot be vetoed by the president.

● (1425)

Would the Secretary of State for External Affairs please wake up to the fact that he may have sent a note yesterday, but recognize that maybe he should get on the phone today and call his counterpart directly in the United States to head off this action?

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, we take an extremely serious view of this matter. But the hon. member must recognize that, in terms at least, these additional funds are specified to be for work which is unrelated to any effect on Canada. We have made strong representations, and we shall continue to do so.

Mr. Broadbent: Madam Speaker, there is at least a New Democratic Party member of Parliament who is in the U.S. Senate today trying to do the job which the minister should be doing. I would like to get clarification from the minister since, if the funds are approved for this particular part of the project, it means inevitably that the rest of the project will have to be completed and therefore the damage will be done to the province of Manitoba. Is the minister telling us today that he is really not very concerned that this part of the project is completed, in full knowledge that if it is, the final project will be completed, doing irreparable damage to the people of Manitoba?

Oral Questions

Mr. MacGuigan: Madam Speaker, I am telling the hon. member that some members of the U.S. Congress may not realize the situation because the funds are specified to be for work in the United States. That is the reason we have made strong representations. The member of his own party to whom he is referring consulted me before going to the United States and received my encouragement for doing what he is doing. We are making our representations to the United States government as well.

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TRADE AND COMMERCE

WHEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER AID PROGRAMS—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PRIVATE COMPANIES

Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce if he and his assistant, the Minister of State for Trade, are using their advocacy role to untangle the interdepartmental confusion when aid wheat is shipped offshore. If they have not, will they take a lead role in solving the bureaucratic and legal entanglement that exists between the Department of Supply and Services, CIDA, the Canadian Wheat Board and the Department of Justice?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Huntington: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if he would seek an interim emergency payment which would prevent the bankruptcy of a private sector company that has performed its services to the letter of the law, but is unable to receive payment for damages due over the past three years from the government; that is, damages caused by the Canadian Wheat Board not being able to meet shipping schedules as agreed.

Mr. Gray: Madam Speaker, I will be happy to look into this matter on an urgent basis.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCENTIVE PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Mr. Gordon Gilchrist (Scarborough East): Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. For many years now the business and scientific communities have made numerous constructive and sensible submissions on how government can increase the level of vitally-needed research in Canada. When will the minister announce a practical R and D incentive program consistent with Canada's industrial needs, instead of simply continuing the same old tactics which have dropped Canada's level to less than half the level of other industrialized countries?