

*Inquiries of the Ministry***POLLUTION****FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN SUIT BROUGHT BY ONTARIO AGAINST DOW CHEMICALS**

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** May I direct a question to the Prime Minister with respect to the suit for damages launched by the Ontario government against Dow Chemicals and, if I understand correctly, against the parent corporation in the United States? Is the federal government participating in this suit along with the Ontario government? Perhaps I should have directed the question to the Minister of Justice or to the Solicitor General. In any case, I should be glad if the minister who can supply the information would reply.

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** We are providing all the information we have to the government of Ontario and keeping our options open.

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**AIR TRANSPORT****CANADIAN ACTION RESPECTING HIJACKING**

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** My question is for the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs or for the Minister of Transport. It has to do with the grave concern expressed recently by the Canadian Airline Pilots Association with respect to hijacking in Canada. May I ask whether Canada intends to subscribe to the terms of the Hague convention or to move on its own with respect to this most heinous of all crimes?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** I have answered this question on a number of occasions. Our position is that we are prepared to co-operate with any country in any way which would put an end to this type of senseless crime. Whether there is any specific initiative at the moment, in addition to what we have taken unilaterally, I cannot say. At the same time, we are continuing talks with the Canadian Airline Pilots Association and I believe the association understands the position.

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**POST OFFICE****TORONTO—RENT PAID FOR NEW SERVICE CENTRE, SALE OF MERCHANDISE**

**Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington):** I would direct my question to the minister responsible for the Post Office. It concerns the opening of a new postal service centre in Toronto yesterday. May I ask the minister whether it is the case, as reported in an article I read in the *Globe and Mail*, that the rent being paid is \$8 per square foot per month and, second, whether it is the intention to use these premises to sell merchandise in competition with private enterprise?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The hon. member knows he cannot ask a minister to confirm or deny the accuracy of statements which appear in the press. Perhaps we can

[Mr. Trudeau.]

assume, however, that the question was asked directly, and the minister may wish to reply.

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Minister without Portfolio):** As far as arrangements for allocation of buildings are concerned, this is a matter which comes within the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. I understand that the premises include a very nice boutique, and maybe this is a new concept for the Post Office. We intend to sell other things besides stamps, including mint sets, mineral specimens and other articles of a kind which symbolize Canada. We shall also provide services which people need when sending parcels and so on.

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**FISHERIES****PREVENTION OF FISHING BY FOREIGN SHIPS WITHIN 12-MILE LIMIT—PROTEST BY FRANCE**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. Is the minister prepared to clear up the inconsistency between his answer on Friday to the hon. member for St. John's East and the reply given by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs on Monday to the same member with regard to the protest voiced by the French government over Canada's announced 12-mile limit along the south and west coasts of Newfoundland? In other words, will French trawlers refrain from fishing within our 12-mile fishing limit?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, concerning the nature of the communication that we received last week, I understand it originated with a junior official of the French government and was of the character of a protest. Since then, the French Ambassador has termed it a reservation, so I now report that a reservation has been expressed by the French government.

**Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister undertake to keep the parliamentary secretary informed while his minister is away?

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**TRANSPORT****AGINCOURT-TORONTO RAILWAY COMMUTER SERVICE**

**Mr. S. Perry Ryan (Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Will the minister be throwing his weight behind the conveniently scheduled six-month experimental commuter service on the CPR line between Agincourt and Toronto, as requested of him by the Agincourt committee?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have already assured the chairman of the metropolitan group in Toronto, Mr. Campbell, that we will participate with them in a thorough study of all