NORTHERN AFFAIRS

POND INLET, N.W.T.—ORDER STOPPING BROADCASTS BY PRIVATE RADIO STATION

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. J. Orange (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport but in his absence will ask the acting minister whether he or the Department of Transport can confirm that the department has ordered the private radio station at Pond Inlet, in the Northwest Territories, a small Arctic community 2,000 miles north of Montreal, to stop broadcasting. If so, what were the circumstances relating to that order?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I suggest to the hon. member that this is not a question that should be asked at this time.

Mr. Orange: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, this radio station services a small group of approximately 350 people. It provides—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Orange: —community services, community news to the community and to the Eskimo people living in the nearby camps—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Orange: My question of privilege-

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have no doubt that the hon. member can obtain that information from the minister if he thinks there is great urgency in this matter.

TRADE

WHEAT—DISCUSSIONS RESPECTING SALES TO JAPAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. George Muir (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce. Yesterday in reply to a question from the hon. member for Bow River the minister said that Japan was getting ready to start trading again in wheat with this country. During his trip did the minister receive any assurance or commitment from the Japanese government as to the amount of wheat it would be taking during this crop year?

27053-2041

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the Japanese have never discontinued taking wheat from Canada. The amounts recently were not as great as we would wish, but they recently told us the quantity they will take in December and it is pretty well up to their normal imports from Canada. They are now working on their allocations for January and February, and I hope they will be in the normal range.

[Translation]

TEXTILES—SUGGESTED RESTRICTION ON IMPORTS FROM JAPAN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Maurice Allard (Sherbrooke): I have a question for the Minister of Finance.

As Japan has reduced considerably its purchases of wheat from Canada and has ignored Canada's protests concerning textiles imports, is it the intention of the minister, with a view to assist many Canadian industries, to impose quotas on textiles, and especially Japanese synthetic fibres?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I deny the premise of the question asked by the hon. member. The Minister of Trade and Commerce has dealt with the question of wheat sales to Japan. I have had an opportunity of speaking to Japanese authorities about restraints on their export of textiles and fibres to Canada, and I hope to be able to make a statement on this matter early next week.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF GATT

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert Winters (Minister of Trade and Commerce): While I am on my feet, Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may be permitted to draw the attention of hon. members to the presence in the Speaker's gallery of Mr. Eric Wyndham White, who is director general of the general agreement on tariffs and trade, a gentleman to whom we all owe a great debt for his outstanding work on trade liberalization, and particularly the success of the Kennedy round.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.