

Oral Questions

● (1450)

[Translation]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

CIP PLANT IN TEMISCAMING—MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND QUEBEC MINISTER OF LANDS AND FORESTS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

Following the meeting of the Quebec Minister of Lands and Forests (Mr. Drummond) with the CIP president, would the hon. minister tell us if a conclusion has been reached, what has been the role of the federal government and, under the circumstances, what decision has been taken?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Until such time as final approval has been given it would not be possible for me to state a specific amount. I can advise the House that a submission from me has gone forward for consideration by my colleagues, and I would hope it could be dealt with very promptly. As to the nature of the submission and proposals, they are roughly speaking in line with what was requested in the first instance.

[Translation]

CIP PLANT IN TEMISCAMING—ALLEGED THEFT OF TIMBER—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

It was suggested yesterday that the CIP is considering floating 50,000 cords of wood down the Ottawa river. Are the 170,000 cords of wood which the CIP had up there included in the deal in connection with which the federal government was prepared to subsidize and is the hon. minister in a position to tell the House whether some of his officials are currently watching the very dubious actions of the CIP in Temiscaming?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): We are aware of the fact that the company, CIP, has moved a quantity of the wood which is necessary for this particular project. However, other than having indicated to the company that we were moving toward a resolution of this problem, it is not within the authority of the federal government to make any decision as to the manner in which the wood is to be disposed of. That would be a matter for the appropriate authorities in the province of Quebec.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

FLAGS

REQUEST FOR MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR FLYING OF UNION JACK AS SYMBOL OF CANADA'S MEMBERSHIP IN COMMONWEALTH AND ALLEGIANCE TO CROWN

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I direct my question to the Prime Minister. It has to do with Her Majesty the Queen, with particular reference to her speech last evening setting forth clearly and definitely her integral part in the Parliament of Canada and also to the response she has received which indicates a loyalty, a devotion and a love for the Queen that could not have been exemplified more clearly and definitely.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Diefenbaker: I therefore ask the Prime Minister who must, constitutionally, have participated in the production of that speech, whether the government will bring before the House a measure to provide that the Royal Union Flag, generally known as the Union Jack, may continue to be flown as a symbol of Canada's membership in the Commonwealth of Nations and of our allegiance to the Crown?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): The right hon. gentleman is correct in his assumption that the advice given to the Queen by her Canadian advisers concerned not only the details of her visit but statements she was going to make that might have any policy implications. As to the second part of the question, no, Mr. Speaker, there is no intention to introduce such a resolution, but I understand it is recognized that the Union Jack does serve as a symbol of the unity of the Commonwealth countries.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That was not the view of the committee of parliament which in its final report on the flag recommended that the government be authorized to take the step to which I have referred. In order to give substance to the words of Her Majesty the Queen, and having regard to the Commonwealth Conference which will take place in August, will the Prime Minister not reconsider the offhand opinion he has just given and carry out the wishes of a committee of parliament to the end that the Union Jack may take its place to the left of the Speaker's chair?

Mr. Trudeau: Surely, this is a matter for parliament itself to decide, not for the government to impose on parliament. The reason the Canadian flag is there now is that a motion was moved by a Liberal member and supported by the House of Commons. As to the Commonwealth Conference, it is true that the Queen will be here at the invitation of the government of Canada. This will be the first time she will attend a Commonwealth Conference held outside the United Kingdom. We are very pleased and proud as a government that she has accepted the invitation. I am sure that whatever symbols or displays are needed at that time to show our loyalty will be present.

Mr. Diefenbaker: With respect to the right hon. gentleman, I would ask him whether or not the recommendation of a committee of the previous parliament to the effect