

## Oral Questions

## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## CONSTRUCTION OF ALASKA HIGHWAY—PORTION FUNDED BY UNITED STATES

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Am I to understand from the minister's remarks that the United States government is funding the building of the highway in Canada?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, that is the construction of the Haines road, the Alaska highway.

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, the matter is not clear in my mind. Is the actual area which is being financed by the United States government in Canada, or Alaska?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I will have to look at my map. I would have to simply say that it is the section of the highway currently being built by the two countries under the terms of the agreement mentioned.

## GUATEMALA—ALLEGATION EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS UNABLE TO USE POWDERED MILK—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As Dr. Grace Anderson, an industrial chemist at Wilfrid Laurier University in Cambridge-Waterloo has said that the majority of Guatemalans will not be able to digest the 100,000 pounds of powdered milk which Canada has sent as aid to Guatemala and that only the Spanish, who are basically the upper class in Guatemala, can digest milk, may I ask if the Secretary of State for External Affairs has investigated the veracity of that statement and, if so, can he report to the House?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, when the statement was made initially, I asked the chargé to investigate. He reported to me that the decision, or recommendation, to seek powdered milk for distribution in Guatemala was based on consultations with nutritional authorities in Guatemala. They recommended that powdered milk, in conjunction with other nutrients should be used in the diet. Since then I understand there have been demands from local areas. Orphanages, villages and other areas have asked for supplies of powdered milk. All the evidence suggests that the remarks made by the lady in question are misleading.

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## CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

## INQUIRY AS TO COVERAGE OF CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Is he now in the position to answer the question asked earlier regarding CBC radio coverage of the final day when voting will take place at the national Progressive Conservative party leadership convention?

[Mr. Cullen.]

● (1520)

**Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State):** Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure that what they have agreed to meets the full approval of that party. However, I am told that radio programming will be moved forward to three from four, but facilities will be made available to allow that to be moved forward to one thirty, depending upon the progress of the balloting. Full network television coverage will start at twelve o'clock.

**Mr. Coates:** Mr. Speaker, I think it is only fair to point out to the minister and the House that this is a major departure by CBC Radio with regard to the treatment of this party as compared with that of the New Democratic Party during their leadership convention and to the minister's own party when they selected the present Prime Minister. I think this is a shocking and shameful departure.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Coates:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I would like to complete my question.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I will see the hon. member again in about seven minutes.

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## ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

## INQUIRY WHETHER VOTE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT MEASURE WILL BE CONSIDERED VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

**Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North):** Mr. Speaker, I had hoped to direct this question to the Prime Minister. In light of the fact that other duties have called him out of the House and as the Solicitor General is also absent, I will direct it to the Acting Prime Minister. With reference to a free vote on capital punishment, the Solicitor General said that in light of the dangers to guards and correctional officers in the penitentiaries, and referring once again to New Westminster, he said, "There will be a government bill to which the government will be committed, but the members of this House who are not with the government will be free to vote on it as they see fit." That is with reference to the bill to abolish capital punishment. In light of the fact the cabinet will have to vote for the bill, does the Acting Prime Minister consider that this will be a vote of confidence in the government?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, if I understand the views of my colleagues, they will all support this bill voluntarily.

**Mr. Woolliams:** In light of the fact the Solicitor General said that the government members, meaning the cabinet, would be committed to voting for the bill and only those not in the cabinet would have a free vote, does the Acting Prime Minister now say that this is a vote of confidence in the government?