Oral Questions

If we are going to get more export business, we must pull up our socks and increase our productivity

As this improvement will not just happen but must be induced by incentives, would the Prime Minister tell the House when we may expect the announcement of the introduction of productivity incentives to be paid in direct proportion to increases in productivity, as the Prime Minister has been telling me for more than two years now would be announced in the House soon, without any results taking place?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Possibly the hon. member has been absent, but from time to time the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce have indicated various forms of productivity incentives being applied to the Canadian economy. If the hon. member would check he would probably find them in the income tax legislation and other forms of legislation.

Mr. Hees: I have checked all the statements made by these gentlemen and have found no incentives introduced to be paid in direct proportion to increases in productivity and no worthwhile incentives introduced at all. As the Prime Minister, obviously, has no intention of making good on his promise to me, I would ask him a question. Is he by any chance related to that Mr. Micawber of Dickensian fame who, like the Prime Minister, was always expecting something to turn up, but it never did?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Give him the dickens.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING EMBASSIES WITH TEXTS OF IMPORTANT STATEMENT IN BOTH LANGUAGES SIMULTANEOUSLY

Mr. Claude-André Lachance (Lafontaine-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Is there a government order instructing the Department of External Affairs to convey the official statements of the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau), especially those he makes on television, to Canadian missions, consulates and embassies abroad, in only one of the two official languages depending on whether the recipient is a Francophone or Anglophone country, the other version of which would follow normal diplomatic channels? As the purpose of such communications is to inform staff members posted abroad, and as there are French-speaking personnel not only in French-speaking countries and vice versa, if such instructions exist, would the minister consider sending such communications in the future simultaneously in both official languages of Canada as a courtesy to the staff?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we do in fact make available various statements, including those by the Prime Minister and others, in the way the hon. member has mentioned. However, as an economy measure, what is done is to send, in the normal language of the particular mission, the first text by wire and to follow it up with the text in the alternate language in the official mailbags which go every day. This is done because we would more than double the cost of doing it if we sent them both out by wire in all cases.

TRANSPORT

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA COASTAL TRAFFIC—REQUEST THAT MINISTER INVESTIGATE AND MAKE STATEMENT

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that yesterday at Ocean Falls 300 irate citizens refused to allow the motor vessel *Bella Bella* to land, complaining about the inadequacy of the service in that area, and in view of the fact that the minister said yesterday:

I am expecting later this day a report from an official who has been surveying the entire scene of the current new operation.

Can the minister make an undertaking to the House that he will go to British Columbia immediately to see for himself the inadequacy of the service, and if the minister agrees, this party might even be prepared to let him take his own jet plane.

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Mr. Fraser: Would the minister also make a statement to the House today as to what was the report he was waiting for yesterday, so that the people of British Columbia might be assured that this service will be revitalized?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the people in Ocean Falls have long wanted the ferry service, particularly the one operated by the British Columbia government. One of the results of the new arrangement with the government was to provide that service to them. I am surprised at the reaction reported by the hon. member. I did have a chance to examine some of the questions which were put yesterday, including the one about specific extra charges on automobiles, and I find that the charge for an unaccompanied automobile is in fact exactly the same as it was before. What happened before was that a special bargain had been available in terms of automobile and passenger travelling together, and some adjustments of rates will be necessary in special circumstances because now the accompanying passenger arrangement will not normally work on the enlarged service.