

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Muir:** I realize the minister is at a disadvantage today, being in several portfolios at once, but would he ask the Minister of Transport to advise the House if it is the intention of this government to take people's money and give it to private corporations as a subsidy, thereby competing against Canadian National ships and creating more unemployment in Port aux Basques, Newfoundland and North Sydney, Nova Scotia? I refer particularly to Clarke Steamship.

**Mr. Basford:** I will determine the precise answer to that question, but it is the objective of the Minister of Transport and this government to spend public moneys in providing to Canada and Canadians the most effective and efficient transportation system possible.

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**FOREIGN INVESTMENT****TAKEOVER OF WESTINGHOUSE—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

**Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Will the minister advise the House of the situation regarding Westinghouse Canada, White Consolidated and General Steelwares? Has a decision been reached on this matter?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the hon. member for giving me notice of this question. As he, I think, knows, I returned only Tuesday of this week. There was not time for me to review the new evidence which came in during my absence, but I have scheduled a full meeting with regard to this for next week, and barring some unforeseen circumstances which I do not anticipate at the moment, it should be possible to announce a decision late next week.

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[Translation]

**COMMUNICATIONS****REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES CONCERNING BROADCASTING**

**Mr. Louis Duclos (Montmorency):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Communications.

Wednesday in Montreal, referring to the federal provincial dispute over communications, the minister said, and I quote:

Nobody has ever even tried to negotiate concrete agreements to know how far the federal government was prepared to go in its proposals.

Could the minister tell the House whether the government soon intends to take the initiative of indicating to the provinces how far it is prepared to go in its proposals, and when will the minister be ready to outline in the House the major principles of those proposals?

**Hon. Jeanne Sauv  (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, in that part of my speech, I referred to the attitude of some provinces which took a take-it-or-leave-it

[Mr. Basford.]

position, that is to say we had either to deny that the federal government had a predominant responsibility in the field of communications, or to have no negotiations whatsoever. Now, my whole speech was to say that apart from that take-it-or-leave-it logics, there are parameters on which there can be some discussion. For the hon. member's information, I intend to visit the provinces to meet my provincial counterparts to determine what the needs of the provinces in the communications field are exactly and to see, in the light of offers which were already known by the provinces, what arrangements the federal government can make to meet these needs.

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● (1150)

[English]

**AGRICULTURE****RESPONSIBILITY FOR DETECTING OUTBREAK OF BLUE TONGUE—REACTION OF UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES**

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of Agriculture? It relates to a new development to do with the livestock disease, blue tongue. I thank the minister for passing along the background paper relating to the new embargo in Great Britain preventing the entry to that country of Canadian livestock. The reason for the embargo is the disease, blue tongue. May I ask the minister how this particular outbreak was detected? I am thinking particularly of the outbreak on the border between British Columbia and the United States. Was it detected as a result of our own, Canadian health of animals tests, or as a result of the recently announced United States policy under which U.S. authorities monitor shipments of live Canadian cattle to that country? Did they do the testing, and were we advised of the result?

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I think the disease was detected by our own inspection service, which checks on all imported animals. We believe the disease may have been transmitted by an imported bull brought into the herd from the United States. The herd is right on the border between British Columbia and the state of Washington. Or, it could have been transferred to the herd over the fence. We are concerned.

**An hon. Member:** That's enough bull, now.

**Mr. Whelan:** We still feel that our herds in Canada are free of blue tongue and we have done everything possible to eradicate the disease.

**Mr. Hargrave:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the minister if there has been a response from the United States health of animals authorities with regard to this specific incident?

**Mr. Whelan:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if there has been a response on this specific instance.