

Representatives, which would impose a tax on Canadian tourist advertising literature brought into the United States for use at sportsmen and travel shows. This Bill was apparently introduced in response to a 9 per cent sales tax now being imposed on U.S. literature entering Canada. In view of the obvious adverse effect that this proposed U.S. tax would have on Canadian tourist establishments if implemented, is the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism prepared to recommend to the Minister of Finance that this sales tax be removed in the next budget in order to avoid having this retaliatory step taken by the United States Congress?

**Hon. David Smith (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)):** Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Member suggests, it is true that this is a problem, and I have received a number of complaints about it, particularly from Americans who come here for conventions and bring along promotional material. I wish to assure the Hon. Member that I will be meeting with my appropriate cabinet colleagues to see if a solution to this problem can be found.

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#### SUPPLY AND SERVICES

##### PURCHASE OF AMERICAN COAL FOR USE AT CANADIAN FORCES BASE GAGETOWN, N.B.

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services and also involves the Minister of National Defence. The Government purchased for Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in New Brunswick 17,000 tons of U.S. coal mined in Kentucky, in preference to Nova Scotia coal mined by the Government's own agency, the Cape Breton Development Corporation. Will the Minister explain why a government Department would purchase foreign coal when Canadian coal miners are unemployed, and when the Throne Speech claims that the Government intends to expand its "Buy Canadian" policy?

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, I do not have any details relating to the inquiry of the hon. gentleman. I would be pleased to take note of his question and provide him with as much information as is available.

**Mr. Crosby:** Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that the Minister does not have any information because the amount of money involved, \$1.3 million, would employ 50 Cape Breton coal miners for one year, and the Minister does not know about it.

##### REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT OF POLICY

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Madam Speaker, if the Minister does not know about this case, will he at least undertake to the House that there will be no cases like this in the future? Will he undertake to amend government regulations and policy in order to ensure that, when the Government buys products, it will buy from its own agencies in preference to U.S. suppliers?

#### Oral Questions

**Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, I would simply like to point out to the hon. gentleman that, indeed, Devco is supported in large measure by funds from the federal Government. I am sure that the allegations that he is making can be explained. When I was Minister of Supply and Services I was always intent, as in my successor, on ensuring that we create as many jobs within Canada as possible through procurement.

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#### CROWN CORPORATIONS

##### NORTHERN TRANSPORTATION COMPANY LTD.—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Will the Minister of Transport investigate the Crown corporation known as Northern Transportation Company Limited with regard to management practices, safety, accounting practices, and a conflict of interest that exists because employees and managers of NTCL are also directors of Arctic Offshore Limited, a company which competes in northern transportation?

**Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, if the Hon. Member would send me the particulars or details of his concerns, I would certainly look into the matter.

● (1450)

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#### MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

##### REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH QUEBEC GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT

[Translation]

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Minister is no doubt aware that today, in the Quebec National Assembly, closure will probably be imposed on the debate in committee on Bill 38.

I am aware that the Minister has been in touch, and has conducted negotiations, with the Government of Quebec regarding an eventual agreement between Quebec and Ottawa to help the municipalities, while, of course, respecting provincial jurisdiction.

In view of the fact that 1,600 mayors in Quebec are very worried about this turn of events, can the Minister give the House the assurance today that he would be prepared to call an urgent meeting with his Quebec counterpart in order to reach a compromise that would be acceptable to both parties?

**Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Madam Speaker, I am always ready. I certainly want to try to reach an agreement with the Quebec Government on this issue. However, since for all practical purposes, negotiations between the two Governments were suspended this morn-