

Oral Questions

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): As a beginning, Mr. Speaker, I will certainly discuss the question with the president of CIDA and determine what his misgivings are, and then discuss the matter with the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

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MULTICULTURALISM**ASSISTANCE FOR TEACHING THIRD LANGUAGE IN SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOLS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State (Multiculturalism). As the result of a statement made by the former minister responsible for multiculturalism in a speech delivered in Edmonton on January 29 of this year regarding further assistance to multicultural groups, I asked the new minister of multiculturalism yesterday if he is prepared to provide assistance in connection with projects to improve teaching skills of teachers involved in third language training in Canada's supplementary schools, and as well if he is prepared to provide support for the operation of supplementary schools in third language instruction. The minister replied, in essence, that he would look into it. I would like to ask the minister if he is now in a position to give me the answer.

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, I should like to inform hon. members of the government's continued intention to provide support for cultural retention for all of Canada's cultural groups. As all hon. members will recall, all parties in the House were ardent and unanimous supporters of the multiculturalism policy.

An hon. Member: You are reading your answer.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Just as you read your questions. Even the right hon. gentleman raises questions once in a while and everybody reads research papers, so I do not see why I cannot read my answer.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): This policy recognized that the cultural value of many languages would not weaken the position of Canada's two official languages. I have instructed my officials to study all programming possibilities in recognizing the cultural value of heritage languages, and not only those referred to by the hon. member for Grey-Simcoe. I expect that program alternatives will be brought forward for my consideration in the very near future and that I will be able to further detail my government's position at that time. I am sure that the hon. member for Grey-Simcoe will enthusiastically support any recommendations I may make in this area as much as he has indicated his concern for the immediate implementation of the proposed programs he referred to yesterday.

[Mr. Roche.]

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**CLOSURE OF ELECTROHOME PLANT IN NOVA SCOTIA—SUGGESTED RECOVERY OF PORTION OF GRANTS**

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for either the Acting Prime Minister or the Acting Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Unemployment continues at exceedingly high levels in Pictou county, and indeed in all of Nova Scotia, and yet another DREE assisted industry, Electrohome Limited, which has benefitted from a \$1.9 million allotment from DREE, has closed its doors after shipping some of their equipment to Ontario. I should like to ask the Acting Prime Minister or the Acting Minister of Regional Economic Expansion what measures are about to be taken to recover, or at least explore the possibility of recovering, some of this DREE allotment in this industry, as in others, as is required by law, and to keep closer control over situations such as this?

Mr. Ed. Lumley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the specific details of the case mentioned by the hon. member, but I will endeavour to get information and will get back to him as soon as possible.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**DRILLING IN BEAUFORT SEA—POSSIBILITY OF COMPLAINTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES ABOUT RISK OF OIL SPILL AND CO-OPERATION ON CLEAN-UP**

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment and concerns some of the statements made in the Berger Report about Beaufort Sea drilling. Has Canada received any representations concerning oil spill risk in the general Arctic from any of the neighbouring countries with which Canada shares the Arctic, either from the United States or from the Soviet Union? If so, can the minister advise the House what kinds of representations we have received and whether any negotiations are underway with countries in the Arctic in terms of oil spill technology, oil spill clean-up or co-operation in developing Arctic resources, in view of the very high environmental risk in that area?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with representations made on behalf of the government of the United States expressing concern, concern which we share, about the risk involved in Beaufort Sea drilling. In fact, we have kept them closely informed of our procedures in the last year. We will also inform them of the changes we are asking for this year if drilling goes ahead. We are sharing information with the United States government. As for sharing information with the Soviet authorities, I would have to check the record to know exactly where we are with that one.