

has put the report in the mail and I expect it at any time. The other parties in the dispute are also letting me have their reports, and as soon as I receive them I will advise the House.

Mr. Stanfield: The minister is hiding behind the mail.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDEPENDENCE OF BAHAMAS—ADMISSION TO UNITED NATIONS—CANADA'S POSITION

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Can the minister tell us today, on the day following the official declaration of independence of the Bahama Islands, whether provision has been made for closer relations with this Commonwealth country, and if necessary, what form the exchanges would take, and whether the government intends to support a possible application by the Bahamas for membership in the United Nations?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am sure I speak for all members of the House in welcoming the independence of the Bahamas and the accession of that area in its own independent capacity as a member of the Commonwealth. We expect that the head of government of the Bahamas will be here when the Queen joins in welcoming all the heads of government in Ottawa, and at that time we will be having consultations.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

WITHDRAWAL OF FEDERAL COUNSEL FROM HEARING OF INDIAN LAND CLAIMS BY MR. JUSTICE MORROW—POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO COUNSEL APPOINTED BY COURT

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Justice. Since the Department of Justice legal counsel has withdrawn from the hearings into the Indian land claims before Mr. Justice Morrow, will the minister say whether legal officers of his department will provide all possible assistance to Mr. Dietrich Brand who has been appointed a friend of the court by Mr. Justice Morrow, so that the hearings can proceed?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I would not see any role for us in that regard.

Oral Questions

HEALTH

DISPOSITION OF ALLEGEDLY CONTAMINATED MEDICAL SUPPLIES—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare arising from the fact that his department in the past few days has been disposing of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of medical supplies maintained for civil emergency purposes at approximately 13 depots across Canada on the grounds that these supplies may be contaminated. My question is this. Can the minister tell the House why 35,000 cases of such equipment were disposed of from his departmental depot in Brockville, Ontario, in the last few days in such a manner that children in the area have been able to obtain needles, tubing and other equipment which his department suggests is contaminated, and what steps is his department taking to deal immediately with this obviously and potentially dangerous situation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice and investigate the matter.

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YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—APPROVAL OF PROJECT, "SERVING THE POLISH COMMUNITY IN PARKDALE"—RELATIONSHIP OF M. HAIDASZ TO MINISTER

Mr. Terry Grier (Toronto-Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State who is responsible for the Opportunities for Youth project. Would the minister inform the House whether his department has approved a \$15,400 grant to three young people, namely, Mr. Worowski, Mr. Yuskoski and M. Haidasz for a project called "Serving the Polish Community in Parkdale". If the answer is yes, can he confirm that the M. Haidasz in question is the daughter of or related to the minister responsible for multiculturalism who is the sitting member for Parkdale?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that the project has been approved. I can also confirm that Miss Haidasz is not a member of the project.

Mr. Grier: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wish to ask the minister whether the name M. Haidasz appeared on the application for that amount?

Mr. Faulkner: Mr. Speaker, I believe so, but I should like to check into that.

Mr. Grier: A further supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will be recognized for his supplementary, after which the hon.