

Mr. Lang: Hon. members from the Tory party, including the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar, do not seem to realize that if there is a deficit in the pool, additional costs by way of demurrage obviously fall to the government, which pays the deficit; so it is not upon the farmer.

An hon. Member: It is on the taxpayer.

Mr. Lang: I agree that it is on the taxpayer. At last the Conservatives realize that. I wish they would recognize that generally, including when they attack the user-pays policy and other sensible policies aimed at bringing about productivity increases in this country.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

NOTIFICATION TO U.S.S.R. OF SATELLITE DISINTEGRATING OVER CANADIAN SOIL

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Did the government formally notify the Soviet Union, as we are required to do under clause 4 of article 5 of the treaty governing the return of objects launched into space, and have the Soviets responded in the manner they were obliged to do if we so informed them that an object of a hazardous and deleterious nature had crashed in our territory?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker, there have been discussions between officials of the Department of External Affairs and the Soviet government to determine the consequences of this.

Mr. McKinnon: That is not quite an answer to the question I asked. I asked if we formally notified them under the treaty. Discussions are a different thing. Has the Soviet Union asked that the debris be returned to the Soviet Union, and is the minister aware that if we fail to notify them under the treaty, and if they do not make a spontaneous request for the return of the debris, we may well forfeit our chance of having them pay the expenses of the search?

Mr. Danson: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the treaty has been exercised in that manner.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

TELEVISION—REQUEST COVERAGE BE EXTENDED TO NORTHERN ONTARIO

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Communications.

Considering that several isolated areas in northern Ontario which are not serviced by the French networks are interested in the kind of television programs mentioned earlier by my colleague from Thunder Bay, would the minister be prepared

Oral Questions

to make a statement on motions to explain the policy she intends to follow concerning that kind of programming?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, if I understand correctly, the programs which are available in the region are not broadcast under a licence. The policy is already well established: anyone who wishes to broadcast television programs in a given area must appear before the CRTC to request a broadcasting licence. I will look further into the specific case mentioned by the hon. member to see if something can be done to make television more readily available to people who do not yet enjoy that service.

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[English]

INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS—RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN CANADA

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Has the minister had any discussions with the automobile manufacturers he mentioned yesterday about doing a reasonable amount of, or even doing any, research and development in Canada?

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have encouraged and urged the automobile industry to do more research and development in Canada.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DEPARTMENTAL VACANCY AT DEPUTY MINISTER LEVEL

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. Is there a vacancy at the deputy minister, or associate deputy minister level, in his department concerning the industrial development and research branch and, if there is, will it be filled very shortly?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Yes, Mr. Speaker, there is a vacancy there. The deputy minister interviewed several prospective applicants this week and we hope the position will be filled within the next week or two.

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AGRICULTURE

BURNING OF PLASTIC BAGS AT EVISCERATING PLANT

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. It has just been brought to my attention that late last year the minister's