

Oral Questions

About the strike in the ports of Quebec City, Montreal and Trois-Rivières, which seriously affects Quebec millers and producers in their supply of feed grains, could the parliamentary secretary tell the House if there are any new developments and whether, at this moment, Quebec millers and producers have any way of supplying themselves with feed grains?

Mr. Léopold Corriveau (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the House that the Minister of Agriculture and the government are constantly keeping abreast of what is going on in the ports.

We know it is very difficult for millers to get supplies from the Quebec City and Trois-Rivières ports. On the other hand, the port of Montreal is open to millers who can get their supplies of feed grains. Moreover, talks are now under way between millers and unions to have the ports of Trois-Rivières and Quebec City reopen in the next few days so that millers can get their supplies.

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● (1440)

[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**STUDY OF RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION AND VIOLENCE IN CITIES IN UNITED STATES— POSSIBILITY OF CANADIAN STUDY**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Solicitor General based on the findings of the United States Surgeon General which establishes a casual relationship between violence on television and the increase in violence in our cities. May I ask if such a study is under way in the Department of the Attorney General and if so will he release its findings to this House?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Certain studies are being undertaken by my department, Mr. Speaker. I understand that some are being undertaken as well by the CRTC.

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COMMUNICATIONS**POSSIBILITY OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for the Minister of Communications. Does the CRTC intend to hold public hearings on the subject of violence in television and if so, when will these hearings commence?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that they intend to do so but I could not give the precise date of the proposed hearing to the hon. member. I will inquire about it.

[Mr. Lapointe.]

NATIONAL DEFENCE**REASON FOR EARLY RETURN OF DESTROYERS PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING EXERCISE IN WESTERN PACIFIC**

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. Can the minister inform the House why the three Canadian destroyers of the Second Canadian Destroyer Squadron participating in training exercises with the navies of the United States and the Philippines in the western Pacific were withdrawn rather suddenly from the exercises and are now returning home?

An hon. Member: They ran out of gas!

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, these Canadian ships were on training exercises with the United States navy. The Americans wished to terminate the training exercises, and our ships are returning home.

Mr. McKinnon: A supplementary, Mr. Speaker. Are we to understand from the minister's reply that his department sent a squadron of destroyers 6,000 miles to participate in an exercise with no assurance that it would be carried out? Does he think this is the way to engender support for the increased budget he will so desperately need?

Mr. Richardson: Mr. Speaker, the training exercise was substantially completed by the Canadian ships.

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CRIMINAL CODE**POSSIBILITY OF STUDY AND CHANGE IN PROVISION RESPECTING FIREARMS**

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Justice is prompted by the report yesterday that the Metro Toronto Council is seeking substantial changes in the Criminal Code with regard to firearms. Can the minister advise if there are any specific studies under way in his department with respect to such changes and if so, could he advise when he expects a report or when the House may expect to see some changes in the Criminal Code with respect to firearms?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, in one sense the question of firearms and their control is under constant study, and from time to time orders in council are adopted to classify new weapons or different weapons as either restricted or prohibited. This happens at regular intervals, as these weapons come to our attention or the attention of the police. There has also been a decision to make a fairly small change in the existing provisions with regard to prohibited and restricted weapons in order to give more flexibility in classifying them in one or other categories. The government does not intend at the present time to proceed with any registration system or to control those weapons which are excepted in the Criminal Code from such systems because they are principally used for hunting.