

Oral Questions

[Translation]

TRANSPORT

RECALL OF DEFECTIVE AUTOMOBILES—MEASURES TO ASSURE EFFICIENCY

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Has the minister been in touch in the last 48 hours with representatives of the automobile industry with regard to the automobiles that have been recalled in Canada, and can he give the House the assurance that the federal government intends to take steps to make sure those recalls are made efficiently?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I believe we should allow the Minister of Transport to answer that question.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, this time I should like to put my question to the Minister of Transport.

Has he been in touch within the last 48 hours with representatives of the automobile industry concerning the automobiles that have been recalled in Canada, and can he give the house the assurance that the federal government intends to take steps to ensure that those recalls are made efficiently?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I doubt that this falls within my jurisdiction. In any event, I will take the question as notice and answer it later on.

[English]

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: It was never like this in the old days.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I will then ask the minister responsible, and I am surprised that it is not the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

An hon. Member: There is no responsible minister.

An hon. Member: Get a better executive assistant.

Mr. Grafftey: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the minister responsible for automobile safety standards whether he has communicated with the automobile industry in the last 48 hours in relation to the mass recall of unsafe automobiles and, if so, can the minister responsible assure the House that he will verify immediately the effectiveness of these recalls?

An hon. Member: Will the real minister stand up?

[Translation]

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I simply wish to say that whenever I do not know the answer to a question, instead of talking through my hat, I shall take the question as notice. Members of the opposition enjoy a laugh, but they will laugh until their dying day.

[Mr. Paproski.]

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DISPOSAL OF OLD BARGES IN LAKE OKANAGAN—POSSIBILITY OF HAZARD TO ENVIRONMENT OR RECREATION

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of the Environment. In view of the answer given yesterday by the Minister of Public Works that the three derelict barges disposed of by the department by sinking them in Okanagan Lake are not a hazard to navigation, will the minister assure the House that these barges do not constitute a hazard to either the environment or the recreational use of Okanagan Lake?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we are checking into the matter and if the barges are a hazard either in respect of navigation or to the environment we will take appropriate action.

Mr. Fraser: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister whether he can assure the House that the government has established procedures to ensure that acts of this nature will not be repeated until they have first received consideration by the Department of the Environment as to whether such acts are a contravention of Section 33 of the Fisheries Act of Canada?

• (1440)

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I think each department, like each developer, has a responsibility to look after matters of this kind. My department meanwhile will do its best to work with these developers or departments to make sure that the environment is protected.

Mr. Fraser: In view of my previous question, may I ask whether the minister is aware that prosecutions have taken place in the province of British Columbia against logging companies for dumping sinker logs in lakes, which is practically the same sort of act?

Mr. Davis: Yes, and they have been taken principally by my department.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of the Environment whether his colleague the Minister of Public Works consulted him in his capacity as Minister of the Environment before these barges were sunk in this beautiful lake?

Mr. Davis: Yes, Mr. Speaker, and also the Minister of Transport.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for St. John's West.