

Oral Questions

[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

APPLICATION OF LAW WITHIN FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS
AND AGENCIES

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the government on which it can rest assured that it will never be troubled by the official opposition, particularly its French-speaking members. It has to do with the report of the Commissioner of Official Languages and I should like to direct my question to the Secretary of State in charge of a great number of bilingualism programs.

Does the Secretary of State intend to remedy the various situations that the commissioner has diagnosed in his report in order to ensure as soon as possible that the Official Languages Act is observed in all departments and government agencies?

[English]

Hon. Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): I do not think I can add very much to what I said yesterday. Part of the report of the Official Languages Commissioner does touch upon my responsibility as Secretary of State. I told the House yesterday that I have been studying it personally, the department was looking at it, and I recommended it to all of us.

[Translation]

IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF
COMMISSIONER WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary to the Minister of Transport.

Since the commissioner makes several recommendations for better implementation of the bilingualism policy in the Department of Transport and some government agencies such as Air Canada, would the hon. minister be prepared to give instructions so that the recommendations of the commissioner will be implemented in the current fiscal year?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I was informed that Mr. Spicer wanted to see me. I will be very pleased to receive him to discuss the report with him and bring about the corrections he suggests.

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• (1620)

[English]

TRANSPORT

WEST COAST MARINE PILOTS—POSSIBLE STRIKE
CAUSING CLOSURE OF PORTS

Mr. Harvie Andre (Calgary Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the west coast marine pilots could go out on strike this Thursday, which would effectively shut down

[Mr. Sharp.]

west coast ports again, would the minister indicate what steps he or his officials have taken to try to prevent another stoppage of throughput at west coast ports which would be so damaging to Canadian industries on the west coast?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the pilotage authority has been negotiating with the pilots for months now. I think that a conciliator was called in. The Minister of Labour could give the hon. member information on that. Apparently they have not yet come to an agreement. Is there going to be an agreement? I am not sure; but fortunately they do have certain rights under the law and I am not the one who is going to deprive the pilots of those rights.

WEST COAST MARINE PILOTS—POSSIBLE INTERVENTION
OF MINISTER OF LABOUR TO AVERT STRIKE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I ask the Minister of Labour whether he intends to follow the example of his predecessor and intervene in this dispute in order to avert a strike which would close down the port of Vancouver?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Transport has already mentioned, our officers have intervened and tried to be as helpful as possible in order to obtain a settlement. I realize how serious the matter is. If I were to conclude that ministerial intervention would help to resolve the situation, then it would be given serious consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Before calling orders of the day the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Grey-Simcoe.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF INVITATION TO
PRESIDENT AMIN OF UGANDA TO VISIT CANADA

Mr. Gus Mitges (Grey-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister and deals with the invitation extended to the dictator of Uganda by the government of Canada to visit this country in August of this year. In view of the inhuman and inhumane policies of President Amin in his treatment of non-blacks in Uganda, would the Prime Minister consider withdrawing this government's invitation to President Amin?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is this government's view that it should not intervene in the affairs of other Commonwealth nations. Of course, the Commonwealth nations collectively can express their displeasure, but there is no provision for expelling a member of the Commonwealth. It has happened that countries have withdrawn, but we do not intend to direct the Commonwealth in a way that would involve the censure of one government by another government.

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day.