

like Columbia whose military has a history of human rights violation.

[English]

Oral Questions

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Foreign Affairs): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs I am pleased to notify the hon. member that these helicopters are certified as civil by Transport Canada. They are not certified as military helicopters.

This was raised in our foreign affairs review policy by some witnesses. It came out that some of these helicopters will be used to fight the drug trade which is affecting our society in Canada. The hon. member also knows the country has just gone through an earthquake so these helicopters will come in handy for rescue and humanitarian relief.

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• (1430)

[Translation]

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, the CRTC commissioners, who were unable to reach a consensus, refused to issue a licence for one of the two French-language pay-per-view proposals. This decision was roundly criticized by many parties, including the Government of Quebec, since it would deprive Francophones of an important cultural tool.

How can the Minister of Canadian Heritage justify a decision that is blatantly unfair to Francophones, in Canada and Quebec, when Anglophones have enjoyed a similar service for some time?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): Mr. Speaker, it was not my decision and consequently it requires no justification on my part. I explained yesterday that there was a procedure for parties to appeal or to ask the Government of Canada to refer the decision back to the CRTC for review. I understand that the Quebec Minister of Culture and Communications is interested in taking this route, but I have not yet received official notice from the minister.

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, will the minister confirm that this decision came about as a result of a split between the CRTC's Anglophone and Francophone commissioners who were unable to agree on one of two projects, with the Francophones supporting the Chapiteau project from Quebec and the Anglophones favouring the project by Astral, from Toronto?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I explained that I could not judge and be judged. If and when I become the judge, I will have an opinion, but meanwhile I will remain silent.

FINANCE

Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance.

In 1987 the Conservative Minister of Finance, Michael Wilson, excluded his home town of Toronto from the list of international banking centres in Canada. The opposition Liberals opposed this exclusion and the mayor of Toronto, now a Liberal cabinet minister, initiated a lawsuit against the federal government. He described the Tory decision as crass politics at its worst.

Will the minister now reverse this unfair Tory decision and designate Toronto as an international banking centre?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec): Mr. Speaker, the pros and cons, the benefits of an international banking centre, in fact the whole concept of designating certain areas of the country for specific tax treatment, is something the government has under examination.

When we have completed the examination I will be delighted to respond to the member.

Mr. Ed Harper (Simcoe Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

On Monday the *Toronto Star* reported that the lawsuit against the government has recently been revived. Will the Liberal government act swiftly to prevent the useless waste of taxpayers' dollars for unnecessary legal defence?

Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec): Mr. Speaker, I will take the question as notice. I thank the government House leader for giving me advice.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. Gilbert Fillion (Chicoutimi): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Yesterday in the National Assembly, the Quebec Minister of Culture asked the federal government to review the CRTC's decision on pay-per-view television, in French of course, and I quote: "I would ask my colleague Michel Dupuy to submit to his cabinet a memorandum aimed at persuading the CRTC to review its decision. Pay-per-view is the way of the future—"

Does the Minister of Canadian Heritage intend to act on this urgent request from his Quebec counterpart and will he personally intervene in cabinet, which can instruct the CRTC, as provided under Section 18(1) of the Act—