

INDUSTRY

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT COMPANY—SALE OF UNITED STATES ASSETS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion said that the sale of White Farm's U.S. assets involves "no direct connection whatsoever with the Canadian company". Yesterday news reports revealed that amongst those items that are being sold in the United States is the tooling for parts used in Brantford, and that these will have to be bought, or replaced, to keep the Canadian company in production. Will the Minister admit that he misled the House? Will he also admit that the sale that I talked about on Tuesday is a serious threat to the future jobs of those people in Brantford?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to what news account the Hon. Member is referring. We are in touch with the Royal Bank and the receiver in this case, as well as the person who has been attempting to put together a financing package possibly to take over the White Farm Equipment concern. We have been assured that the activity in the United States has no effect as far as the ongoing operation or potential operation of White Farm in Canada is concerned. There was certainly no misleading of the House when I answered the Hon. Member's question earlier in the week.

Mr. Langdon: In fact it was *The Globe and Mail* of yesterday, Christopher Waddell, who pointed out that this is a key problem for the survival of this company.

REQUEST FOR ACTION TO HELP COMPANY

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister again if he is prepared finally—having talked about socialist extraterritoriality, and trying to bring red herrings into this question—to act and get some urgency behind the survival of this company which is important not just for its own employees but for farm dealers across the country, and for the tool manufacturers, 13 of whom sent a telegram to him this week? Will he stop fiddling around and finally act?

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has shed a lot of light on the source of his information when he refers to *The Globe and Mail*, and Mr. Waddell in particular.

We are acting with respect to his concern about White Farm, and we are in daily contact with various people who expressed an interest in reactivating the concern, including Mr. Sinclair, with whom we met and also discussed this matter on more than one occasion.

Oral Questions

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

PREMIER'S TRIAL—INTERNAL INVESTIGATION

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. After months of waiting the Solicitor General revealed this week that he has received only an interim report from the RCMP on the Hatfield affair. I would like to ask him, after all these months, what possible additional work needs to be done on the report. I would also like to ask for his assurance that the interim report will not be watered down or sanitized to delete its findings from the final version which will be made public.

• (1150)

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I can tell my hon. colleague, as he perhaps will appreciate, that this internal review was one which took a considerable amount of time, and it was interrupted from time to time by the Commissioner's other duties. It was prepared in segments. I want to assure him that, just as there were no attempts to influence or water down the investigation which prompted the internal review, neither will there be any attempt to do anything like that with the comprehensive report which the Commissioner of the RCMP has just about completed.

INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER WAS INTERVIEWED

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, regarding the comprehensive report I would like to ask the Minister whether he was interviewed, or whether the RCMP asked to interview him as they did my colleague, the Hon. Member for York South-Weston.

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the Member surely ought to know, if he would reflect upon the subject, that I speak with the Commissioner of the RCMP on many occasions, as he did when he was Minister. I can assure him, insofar as the request which was made to interview the Hon. Member for York South-Weston was concerned, that instead of co-operating with the force, as I am sure the former Minister would have done, he sought to make a media event out of it. Because of the circumstances, he never made a contribution to the review.

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CULTURAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR TAX MEASURES TO ASSIST ARTISTS AND WRITERS

Ms. Lynn McDonald (Broadview-Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Finance I would like to direct my question to the Minister of State for Finance. The question concerns the poverty of artists and the number of measures which have been proposed to relieve artists in dire straits which were made by the Subcommittee on the Taxation of Visual and Performing Artists and Writers. So far, only the easy recommendations have been implemented.