

Oral Questions

● (1430)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

DATE OF DECISION ON ADMISSION OF PALESTINIAN
LIBERATION ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES TO ATTEND
TORONTO CONFERENCE

Hon. George Hees (Prince Edward-Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. As he seemed to reach his usual low boiling point rather early today, I suggest that he should not blow his top, because it is bad for his health.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: My question is this: as the government has now had an additional week, on top of many previous weeks, to discuss whether it intends to allow the PLO, an organization whose mode of operation is based on organized terror and murder, to come to Canada for the United Nations conference in September, has the government made up its mind on what its decision is to be on this matter and, if so, will the Prime Minister announce it to the House now?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I point out that the hon. member blew his top a long while ago; that will explain why he has none.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Nowlan: What happened to your own? You are not too well off in that department.

Mr. Hees: It is time to adjourn parliament.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I withdraw that. I really should not talk that way to a senior citizen, although he is in such good shape that I keep forgetting he is over 65.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, on the substance of the question, as opposed to the preamble, I would say that my commitment still stands. We will make an announcement on this next week.

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister referred to my distinguished age. I suggest that if he does not cool it a little more than he has in the past, he will not make it.

My question is this: Is it not a fact that the government has already made its decision on this matter but has decided to hold up the announcement until next week, in the hope that parliament will then be recessed, so that the government can avoid the anger of the opposition which the Prime Minister's announcement will provoke?

Mr. Trudeau: No, Mr. Speaker. If it is held up until next week, it is in the hope that a few more Conservatives show up to sit on their benches.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Mr. Munro (Hamilton East).]

TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR RETROACTIVE FREEZE ON FREIGHT RATES ON
FRESHWATER FISH IN NORTHERN MANITOBA

Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. As the tripling of CNR freight and express rates has brought the freshwater fishing industry of northern Manitoba to its knees, will the minister take immediate action to freeze freight rates, governing the transportation of fish in northern Manitoba retroactively to May 1, so that this important industry may survive and provide much needed jobs for the people of northern Manitoba?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if such a problem exists, I think it should be discussed not only with the Department of Transport but also with the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, because many industries are in the same position.

* * *

AIR TRANSPORT

CANCELLATION OF AIR CARRIER SCHEDULES II AND III—
ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF RECEIVING SUPPLIES IN
NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Now that the minister has successfully brought air transportation in the north to a virtual standstill, by cancelling air carrier schedule II and III operating certificates, can the minister advise how remote communities and Indian reservations which have no other means of transport are to receive supplies, mail and medical services?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, while a number of airports had no certificates from the Department of Transport, others have had their certificates cancelled for security reasons. We shall certainly not endanger the lives of the people in the north merely to please my hon. colleague opposite.

* * *

[English]

INDUSTRY

PROPOSED CLOSING OF HAYS TRUCKING COMPANY,
VANCOUVER—INQUIRY AS TO REASONS AND POSSIBILITY
ACTION RESTRAINS COMPETITION

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I hope he received notice of the question. In view of the announcement by Pac-Car, a U.S. truck assembly company, that the Hays Trucking Company of Vancouver will shut down on September 30, thus entailing the loss of some 500 jobs, and as this company also operates Kenworth, a competing truck assembly in Vancouver, will the minister advise if he or his department have inquired into the reasons for this shutdown, if this is a