

FOREST FIRES

SUGGESTED PROVISION OF AIRCRAFT BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE TO COMBAT OUTBREAKS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Bearing in mind the serious forest fire situation in many parts of Canada, particularly in northern Ontario, is the Department of National Defence considering the establishment of a fleet of firefighting aircraft to act as a standby force to assist provincial and territorial governments in emergency forest fire situations?

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Defence): No, Mr. Speaker. However, the department does stand ready to aid provinces in fighting forest fires when called upon to do so, though the responsibility is basically that of the province, within its provincial boundaries.

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FINANCE

PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY PROVINCES ON PLANNED BORROWINGS IN UNITED STATES TO ENABLE ACTION TO COMPENSATE FOR EFFECT ON DOLLAR

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to pose a question to the Minister of Finance. Has he invited the provincial governments to give him information in advance concerning their plans to float large loans in the United States so that his department may take action to compensate for the effect of loans on the exchange rate of the Canadian dollar?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): I have said to the House before that I reiterated the request of my predecessor that provincial governments should, where possible, use the Canadian capital market to accommodate their financial requirements. I might say that most of the provinces are keeping in touch with me. Whether or not the federal government can take compensatory action to balance provincial borrowings is hypothetical. It is a question which is under continuing review.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

ALLEGED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES—SUPPLYING OF INFORMATION TO SECURITY GROUP—OATH OF OFFICE OF MEMBER FOR TRINITY

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question arising out of questions addressed to him earlier by my hon. friend from Egmont. In light of his answers today, and since the statement made by the hon. member for Trinity was based on facts gathered inside or outside the cabinet, may I ask whether the security planning group, the new group which was set up by the Solicitor General to act as a liaison body between the government and the RCMP, has been informed of the information in possession of the hon. member for Trinity? Second, does the Prime Minister

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take the position that his hon. friend from Trinity has broken his oath of office?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Perhaps the Solicitor General can answer the first part of the question. The second part of the question could, I suppose, be answered by anyone as well as myself, including the hon. member for Calgary North.

Mr. Woolliams: With the greatest respect to the Prime Minister, he is the head of the government; he sits in cabinet and I do not.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Woolliams: Hon. members over there can yell and shout if they want to. Let them go ahead. Bring on the chorus. I think the only man who can answer my question properly is the Prime Minister. I ask him now: does he take the position that the former deputy prime minister of this country, a former member of his government, broke his oath of office?

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member is really asking me for a legal opinion. I would not find it proper under the rules to give that opinion. Second, I could not answer, even if I wished to do so, because I do not know exactly what the hon. member said. I have not read or heard exactly what he said. Perhaps the hon. member knows.

Mr. Woolliams: Since the Prime Minister invited me to pass the first part of my question to the Solicitor General, I should like to put that question to the Solicitor General. Has the group that he set up, this new security planning group that we have never been able to find out about, been informed of the information the hon. member for Trinity alleges he has with reference to danger to the security of Canada?

• (1440)

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, we do not know any more than what has been reported in the papers.

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INDUSTRY

UTEX CORPORATION—INQUIRY RESPECTING STUDY OF EFFECTS OF TEXTILE IMPORTS FROM ROUMANIA ON EMPLOYMENT LEVEL IN VICTORIAVILLE

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Can he say whether his department has made a study of the effects of the import of textile products from Roumania on the maintenance of the employment level within the UTEX Corporation at Victoriaville? If so, does he intend to publish the findings of this study?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, of course we watch the import of textile products as we do any others.