

Oral Questions

evidence that Air Canada has again moved into a quasi-diplomatic area by virtue of a recent promotional arrangement with the Lebanese minister of tourism, Mr. Khanamarian does the Prime Minister not agree that our airline is being operated in a bizarre and questionable way outside, in some respects, the authority given to Air Canada by the statutes passed by parliament?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the member is apparently referring to some evidence which is being given before Judge Estey at a commission of inquiry. I have not been following that, but I do have confidence that Judge Estey will do his job properly.

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Prime Minister for his answer. I also have great confidence that Judge Estey will do a very good job in his inquiry. I should like to put a supplementary. In view of the secrecy involved whereby Mr. Khanamarian's position as Air Canada's representative was not to be made known either to his cabinet colleagues or to the rest of the business community in Lebanon, would the Prime Minister not agree also that Air Canada's position in this matter would justifiably be looked upon as dishonest and there would be resulting diplomatic repercussions, since this rather shoddy deal involves our national air carrier and could bring disrepute not only to the Minister of Transport but to his cabinet colleagues, particularly the Secretary of State for External Affairs?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I fail to see what line the hon. member is following. There has been a request for an inquiry into this matter. I think the minister anticipated the request and announced that an inquiry would be held. The opposition is frequently asking for a commission to inquire into many things. We have set up the inquiry. Let us see what it says. I do not think the hon. member should be conducting a parallel inquiry.

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FISHERIES**REASON FOR EXPLORATORY FISHING FOR SWORDFISH—
POSSIBLE LIFTING IMPORT BAN ON SWORDFISH BY UNITED STATES**

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the tender call for the charter of two vessels by the federal fisheries and marine service for exploratory fishing for swordfish during the months of July and August, could the minister indicate the reason for this exploratory work and inform the House if the United States food and drug directorate has lifted the import ban on swordfish as imposed some four years ago?

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment): In the absence of my colleague the Minister of State in charge of Fisheries, I will take notice of that question and inform the hon. member.

Mr. Crouse: A supplementary question. In view of the economic importance of this industry at this time to

[Mr. MacKay.]

Atlantic Canada, and in view of the tremendous economic difficulties being faced by the fishing industry, in Atlantic Canada, would the minister again contact her counterpart in the United States in the hope of reactivating this important industry, since the Japanese and certain European countries are still catching and eating swordfish without any obvious effect on their health?

Mrs. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member must know that the Minister of State (Fisheries) is at the present time trying to devise a policy and help out the restructuring of that industry. The concerns of the hon. member are certainly being taken into account in that over-all restructuring of the industry. I will, however, take this matter up with my colleague.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS**MACKENZIE HIGHWAY—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE CUTBACK OF PROJECT WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH NATIVE TRAINING**

Mr. Doug Neil (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. In view of the minister's statement in the House on Wednesday, July 15 regarding the slowdown of the construction of the Mackenzie highway and the speeding up of construction of the Dempster, Carcross-Shagway and Liard highways, can the minister assure the House that the construction of the Mackenzie highway will proceed in such a manner that there will be no cutback in the native training in that area?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, this is one of our major concerns. We are doing our utmost to assure that, if there is any phasing down on the Mackenzie highway, there will be opportunities available on the Liard highway to take up the slack for the native people.

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OLYMPIC GAMES**POSSIBILITY OF QUEBEC REQUEST FOR AID IN FINANCING DEFICIT—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the one put by the hon. member for York-Simcoe to the President of the Treasury Board. In view of statements made by Quebec Municipal Affairs Minister Victor Goldbloom to the effect that the province will attempt to renegotiate with the federal government further financial aid for the purpose of reducing the ever-mounting Olympic deficit, can the minister advise this House if the government has been approached in this regard?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): No, Mr. Speaker.