

study will be made public or some statement as to the action on that study?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I am in no position to say when it will be made public. As soon as we have reached a conclusion it will, of course, be made public.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED INTERFERENCE WITH CANADIAN TRUCKS ENTERING UNITED STATES AT BUFFALO—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware of the situation which first arose on July 10, when unofficial teamsters' pickets appeared at the United States side of the Peace Bridge between Buffalo and Fort Erie with a view to minimizing, if not blocking, the operations of Canadian truckers in the United States. If so, what action is the minister taking or will take regarding this situation?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I am not aware of this situation and I should like to have any information that the hon. gentleman can give me.

● (1440)

Mr. Kempling: Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs? As trucks bound for the United States have been diverted from the Peace Bridge at Fort Erie to the Rainbow Bridge at Queenston, causing needless delay and customs clearance difficulties, and noting that the United States National Labour Relations Board has termed the picketing as an unfair labour practice but that the picketing will continue because the teamster locals will not meet to resolve the situation, will the minister urge the United States government to expedite a meeting of the parties involved, before the difficulty spreads to other Canada-U.S. border crossing points?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I will investigate the representations which the hon. gentleman has made, and if there is any constructive role we can play, we will be glad to do it.

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HEALTH

SALE OF TAINTED MEAT IN QUEBEC—POSSIBILITY OF PROSECUTIONS

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare? Notwithstanding the misleading and deceptive answer the minister give to the committee on May 27—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Oral Questions

Mr. McGrath:—but bearing in mind the truthful answer he made in the House on June 19, when he said that the government's suspicions had been aroused as far back as 1968 about tainted meat and meat unfit for human consumption being sold in Quebec, may I ask the minister, now that the police inquiry in Quebec is over, if he will assure the House that he intends to proceed, pursuant to his statutory authority under the Food and Drugs Act, to make arrests and lay charges in the province of Quebec, or what cheap, flimsy excuse does he have for the country?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the whole matter is in the hands of the Crown legal advisers.

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[English]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

POSSIBILITY OF PROSECUTIONS ARISING FROM SALE OF TAINTED MEAT IN QUEBEC

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice, who I hope will take a somewhat more responsible attitude to the people of Quebec than the Minister of National Health and Welfare has taken?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. McGrath: In view of the serious revelations coming out of the Quebec police inquiry, indicating beyond any shadow of doubt that federal statutes were violated in Quebec, particularly the Food and Drugs Act, may I ask the minister if he is now prepared to tell the House and the people of Quebec that they are entitled to the same protection as is the rest of the country, and will he immediately proceed to lay charges under the Food and Drugs Act?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, of course, it is our policy to investigate matters which are within our jurisdiction and properly come to our attention and then at the conclusion of the investigation, where that is warranted, to lay charges. That is the practice. But it is also the practice not to comment on those investigations in detail in the meantime.

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FINANCE

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT CURRENCY—ALLEGED REFUSAL OF PARLIAMENTARY RESTAURANT TO ACCEPT \$50 OR \$100 BILLS

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance, and has to do with the serious problem concerning the currency of this country. I am sure many Canadians became accustomed last year, when I raised the matter with the Minister of Finance, to seeing many merchants refuse to accept our \$50 and \$100 bills. We eagerly awaited the issue of the