

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FISHERIES****MEASURES TO RESTORE SWORDFISHING INDUSTRY IN LIGHT OF CONCLUSION RESPECTING PRESENT LEVELS OF MERCURY IN FOOD**

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries. In view of the statement made by Great Britain's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that he has accepted the conclusion of several advisory groups that there is no evidence of harm to health from present levels of mercury in food for the average consumer, will the minister step up his own research on mercury in swordfish and renew negotiations with the United States Food and Drug Directorate in the hope that the sword-fishing industry may be restored in Atlantic Canada?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment and Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, there is no prohibition on the export of swordfish to countries that do not have limits on mercury. The question of levels on this continent is a matter for the food and drug administrations in Canada and the U.S.A.

**SELKIRK FISH PLANT—INQUIRY AS TO POSSIBLE CLOSING**

**Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries. Yesterday he took as notice my question regarding the possibility of the closing of the Selkirk fish plant, which would be contrary to the undertaking he gave previously to this House. I wonder whether he can answer that question now?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries):** Mr. Speaker, the 70-year old fish plant at Selkirk does not meet our standards for inspection. It is being phased out. However, we are hoping to develop new supplies of fish and to have a plant operating at Selkirk in the not too distant future.

**Mr. Rowland:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. On June 25, 1970, as recorded at page 8618 of *Hansard*, the minister said among other things: My own forecast is that there will be two plants, an old one and a new one. The old one at Selkirk needs to be rehabilitated and this will take place beginning next year. I also expect employment in Selkirk will probably increase and not decrease in so far as fish processing is concerned.

I submit that that definite undertaking has been entirely contravened by what the minister has told the House today. If you think that I have a prima facie case of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I would move that the matter be referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member does not have a prima facie case and he may not move the motion.

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[Translation]

**POST OFFICE****PURCHASE OFFERS TO MAIL TRANSPORTATION COMPANIES—INTEGRATION OF EMPLOYEES INTO DEPARTMENT**

**Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put to the Postmaster General a question of

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which I have given him notice and I think he will be in a position to answer.

Can he tell the House whether officials of his department have been authorized to make purchase proposals to private transport companies now under contract to haul mail? Can he say what offers have been made and what are the intentions of the department in this connection?

**Hon. Jean-Pierre Côté (Postmaster General):** Yes, Mr. Speaker, purchase proposals were made to some contractors for their equipment and trucks. This is further to the statement I made in this House on November 23 concerning integration of postal services in 19 large urban centers in the country.

**Mr. Valade:** I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Would the minister tell us whether there is a guarantee under these offers that all staff will be integrated into the corporation which is to be established?

**Mr. Côté (Longueuil):** Mr. Speaker, I said in my statement of November 23 that all permanent employees of those contractors would be integrated into the postal service.

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[English]

**BROADCASTING****LACK OF SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES ON RADIO IN TORONTO**

**Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Secretary of State. I asked him three weeks ago whether he was aware of the secular censorship of Sunday church services on radio, particularly in the Toronto area. These broadcasts in many cases are the only means by which our senior citizens, the disabled, the crippled, the blind and those confined to hospitals or homes can participate in religious services of their choice. At that time the minister replied that he would look into this matter and let me know about it. We have now less than two weeks to go before Christmas and a lot of spiritual music is being performed. Can he make a report today?

• (2:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

**Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State):** Mr. Speaker, as I promised to the hon. member, I have submitted that question to both the CBC and the CRTC. Unfortunately, I did not yet get an answer from either.

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[English]

**AGRICULTURE****SPECIAL LOANS TO EXHIBITIONS—EXTENSION OF PROGRAM TO INCLUDE CLASS C FAIRS**

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the limited nature of the recently announced \$10 million loan program for exhibition buildings in that those loans are available only with respect to class A and class B fairs, will the