

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH FRANCE ON EXTENSION OF FISHING ZONE AND RELATIONSHIP TO ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I should like to welcome him back from his visit to France. Could he report to the House if any discussions took place while he was in France with regard to St. Pierre and Miquelon as related to the extension by France of its 200 mile limit and the difficulties that could be experienced?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I did not raise the question of St. Pierre and Miquelon. We had consultations on this subject in the past with the French and as the hon. member knows we will have to have further discussions. I made extended reference to this point when we announced our extended jurisdiction on June 4. I assure the hon. member that this matter is of great importance to Canada and we intend to protect Canadian interests.

● (1450)

POSSIBLE RENEGOTIATION OF TREATY CEDING ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON TO FRANCE

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs? Is the Treaty of Utrecht which ceded St. Pierre to France and gave France certain fishing rights within Canadian jurisdiction off the coast of Newfoundland, to be renegotiated in the context of our intention to declare a 200 mile economic zone?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not raised that in the negotiations. I will check to see whether it is involved in the resolution of these difficulties or problems which arise as a result of our extended jurisdiction and the jurisdiction claimed by France.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

INVOLVEMENT OF MR. PERRIER IN LEASING FACILITIES FROM CAMPEAU CORPORATION

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. Will the minister launch an immediate investigation and report on any conflict of interest which might be present in the situation of Mr. A. J. Perrier, assistant deputy minister of the Department of Public Works, who is involved in the leasing of facilities and who was, until 1973, vice president of Campeau Corporation?

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Perrier was selected for the vacancy of assistant deputy minister of the Department of Public Works by the Public Service Commission, a body reporting to parliament. At the time of his appointment he severed all connections, financial and otherwise, with Campeau Corpora-

[Mr. Paproski.]

tion. He has, since then, complied completely with guidelines regarding conflicts of interest laid down for civil servants and we have every confidence in his intention and ability to avoid a conflict of interest. I may say, Mr. Speaker, that it does not help much to act on the supposition, because of certain circumstances, of suspected wrongdoing, rather than the reverse.

Mr. Huntington: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise the House of the extent to which Mr. Perrier was involved in the negotiations and arrangements for leases totalling almost \$10 million per annum with Campeau Corporation, and the extent to which he has been involved in the negotiation of the \$490 million lease package for the three towers in Hull, Quebec?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, the bulk of the leases to which the hon. gentleman referred were entered into with Campeau Corporation before Mr. Perrier joined the government. Since then he has not had charge of direct negotiations of any description with Campeau Corporation. These were conducted by the National Capital Region, of which Mr. McFarland is the manager.

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TRANSPORT

RESPONSIBILITY FOR RAIL-BARGE SERVICE—REQUEST FOR INTERCESSION ON BEHALF OF OWNERS OF TUG "MELINDA JANE"

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Since, apparently, the Canadian Transport Commission has no jurisdiction over rail-barge service on Kootenay Lake, it follows that it has no jurisdiction over rail-barge service between Portes aux Basques, Newfoundland, and North Sydney, Nova Scotia. This authority would then revert to the cabinet. Is the minister prepared to accept this responsibility, or will he use his good offices to stimulate the Canadian Transport Commission into taking some action?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared to accept as a legal conclusion that because one thing is a certain way, the other is as well. However, I will look into the matter.

Mr. Brisco: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the minister's response, I ask, is he prepared to intercede on behalf of the owners of the rail-barge tug *Melinda Jane* whose three year contract with the CPR was unilaterally cancelled after one year and who were advised by the CPR to "sue us?"

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member suggested, other remedies are available to the complaining party. I think those remedies should be pursued first.