

Inquiries of the Ministry

this surplus into the space that is available in the terminal elevators in eastern Canada, or is this space held exclusively for the movement of western feed grains?

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I can check into the exact dates. Every year, of course, there is some allocation and reservation of space just prior to the closing of the seaway. I believe that early in the season there was no lack of space and no prohibition against that corn moving in there because of the space being reserved.

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PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

NEWFOUNDLAND—POSSIBLE MESSAGE TO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CONCERNING ADVISERS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): My question is for the Secretary of State in his normal role as the traditional conduit of communication between the executives of the dominion government and the provincial governments. Since the government of Canada constitutionally has responsibility for the peace, order and good government of the country, has the minister conveyed to the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland the message that that hon. gentleman's advisers have lost the confidence of the House of Assembly in that province and that certain actions normally and constitutionally must result therefrom?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker.

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TRADE

MINI-TYPE SUBMARINE—ALLEGED CANCELLATION OF EXPORT PERMIT ISSUED TO INTERNATIONAL HYDRODYNAMICS

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): In the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I will address my question to his parliamentary secretary. Is it true that an export permit for International hydrodynamics of Vancouver to export a mini-type submarine to the Soviet Union has been cancelled? If so, can he say why this cancellation has been made?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The form of the question is somewhat defective. In any event, the parliamentary secretary might be allowed to reply on behalf of the minister.

Mr. Bruce Howard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the government is well aware of the importance of this subject to the country and to the company concerned. Normally, the department answers in the House on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. I will be glad to convey the question to the minister and undertake that a full answer will be provided tomorrow.

• (3:10 p.m.)

CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF UNITED STATES DIFFICULTIES

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding [Mr. Danforth.]

I should like to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs what the government has in mind by a general settlement as opposed to bilateral negotiation in connection with the United States surcharge. Can the Secretary of State indicate the kind of general settlement toward which Canada is prepared to make a contribution as alluded to in the statement he made to the House earlier this afternoon?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Yes, Mr. Speaker. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, the United States has been faced with a very serious balance of payments problem and therefore took certain actions in order to defend its position. They have been discussing ways of getting out of this difficulty with various countries, particularly with Japan, the European Commission and certain other European countries such as Great Britain, as well as with ourselves. Each of us has been asked to make a contribution toward the solution of this problem in order that the United States may once again resume its posture of multilateralism, get rid of the restrictions it has placed on trade in order to deal with the balance of payments problem to which I have referred, and generally to resume the movement toward freer trade which is so much in our interests.

Mr. Stanfield: Might I ask the hon. gentleman specifically what contribution Canada has been asked to make toward this general settlement?

Mr. Sharp: There have been two kinds of discussions going on, one dealing with currencies. In this respect, as the Leader of the Opposition knows, the Minister of Finance has taken the view that by floating its currency some time ago Canada has already complied with the requirement the United States laid down. The United States has also been asking for certain changes to be made in the trading policies of various countries. Certain requests, which are now under discussion, have been made to us. We are looking at these matters. The Europeans are looking at another group. The Japanese are looking at another. I hope we shall all be able to agree, and that the United States will once again be able to resume its normal posture.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

INQUIRY AS TO OFFER OF ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT BY UNITED STATES

Mr. Jack McIntosh (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of United States Secretary of State Laird's recent offer of electronic and other sophisticated equipment to NATO countries to counter the build-up of Soviet armed forces in the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean, may I ask whether the President of the United States made the same offer to Canada during the general discussion which took place on this subject as outlined by the right hon. gentleman last week?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Make what same offer?