

Oral Questions

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I may remind the Hon. Member that this Bill was passed by Parliament and that, therefore, it is not an illegal operation. The Parliament of Canada passed a Bill authorizing the establishment of sports pools in Canada.

About the issue whether the Canada Post Corporation will become associated with the new Sports Pool Corporation, discussions are currently taking place between the two agencies, and I can give the House the assurance that the respective authorities of the two corporations will be publishing the results of their discussions very shortly.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

GRAIN STABILIZATION FUND—PAYOUT DATE

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplemental to those asked of the Minister of Agriculture with regard to the grain stabilization fund. When is this payout going to be made?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member knows that the legislation has to be changed, et cetera. The formula has to be approved by the House through the necessary procedures. Unless we have speedy concurrence of the House we would be very lucky to make one in 1984. However, we want to do it in 1984.

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FISHERIES

NATIONAL SEA PRODUCTS LIMITED—APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Mr. David Mann, who was a member of the Kirby task force, is a lawyer in Halifax. He is one of the group known as Regan's raiders, by the way. He is doing all the legal work on the amalgamation and negotiation with shareholders for Fishery Products International Limited, the Newfoundland company in which the Government is a heavy shareholder. He has now been appointed to the Board of Directors of National Sea Products Limited, their prime competitor. The gentleman is also the campaign manager for Mr. John Turner in the Atlantic Provinces. I do not know how he does all this.

This is an obvious conflict of interest. Would the Minister give instructions to Mr. Mann that he must either leave the Board of National Sea or give up his lucrative legal business for the government owned company, Fishery Products International Limited?

Hon. Pierre De Bané (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I think this is the most eloquent example of double standards.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1500)

Mr. De Bané: The Member who just asked me a question is the brother of one of the directors that the Government of Canada has appointed on Fishery Products.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski: So what?

Mr. De Bané: When the Government of Canada appoints his brother, this is not a conflict of interest. When the private sector appoints a lawyer who has worked in the past for the federal Government as an adviser to me, then he criticizes the private sector for having confirmed the choice that I had made years ago.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Supplementary. The Hon. Member for St. John's West.

Mr. Tobin: Resign!

Mr. Crosbie: The fact that the hon. gentleman—

Some Hon. Members: Resign!

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for St. John's West has the floor.

Some Hon. Members: Resign!

Mr. Crosbie: When you are finished all your excitement that somebody honest got in on one of those companies of yours, just relax.

Mr. Trudeau: You mean your brother is not honest?

CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. David Mann is a lawyer and his firm is acting for Fishery Products International Limited, owned by the Government of Canada and the Government of Newfoundland, and doing all of the legal work. He has now been appointed a director of National Sea Products Limited.

Mr. Trudeau: But he is not a Crosbie. What's your problem?

Mr. Crosbie: He is not a Trudeau either, but that doesn't make him an ass.

Mr. Trudeau: Precisely.