

*Oral Questions**[Translation]*

Hon. Monique Vézina (Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker, last week the Secretary of State for External Affairs and I were able to meet with the Ethiopian Minister of External Affairs who was visiting Ottawa. I took advantage of this opportunity to speak to him personally about the relocation program.

There were three specific points which I think the House will find reassuring. Our representations have been taken into consideration. The relocation program has been suspended, and if it is ever reactivated, it will be a voluntary program. I also had the impression that the Ethiopian Minister of External Affairs shared our concern for human rights. Finally, as the Minister responsible for CIDA, I will be following this matter very closely because it is one of my particular concerns.

* * *

MERCHANT MARINE**AMENDMENT OF CLAUSE 4 OF BILL C-75—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Privy Council in his capacity of House Leader. Could the Minister explain to the House why we are now considering the third reading stage of Bill C-75, although last week, the Prime Minister of Canada promised the Premier of Quebec that Clause 4 of Bill C-75 would be reviewed?

[English]

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Hon. Member has raised a question with respect to Bill C-75, because I thought he was going to ask me whether the commitment to me made by the Liberal Party to get this Bill through possibly by the end of the day would still stand. However, my understanding with respect to this legislation is that there have been consultations with the Province of Quebec and it is my information, which I hope is accurate and accurately reflected in my answer, is that they are satisfied with the provisions of the Bill and the assurances given by the Minister of Transport.

*[Translation]***BILL C-75—CONSEQUENCES FOR QUEBEC**

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I think that the Government House Leader sees Quebec's position in just about the same light as the commitments the Opposition has made with respect to this Bill. We are opposed to the legislation, and I want to ask the Minister to realize that if the Bill is passed, it means that the entire economy, the entire future of the St. Lawrence Seaway is at stake, and with it a large number of sea ports along the St. Lawrence River.

[English]

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think we can rest assured about one thing. The Minister of Transport of our Government, who is probably the best Minister of Transport the country has ever seen, is one who is committed to the interests of all parts of the country, including the Seaway. I know that he spends an inordinate amount of time consulting with various regions, including the important Province of Quebec, with respect to this legislation. He will be back in the House later today. At that time, when he has a chance to speak to the Hon. Member, I hope that some of the misgivings that the Hon. Member obviously has might be cleared up and we can pass the Bill by unanimous consent.

* * *

PUBLIC SERVICE**SUGGESTED ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILD CARE FUND**

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the President of the Treasury Board my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. In view of the national crisis in child care and the Government's commitment to employment equity, as well as setting an example for other employers, will the Minister support the request of the Public Service Alliance of Canada for a two cent per employee per hour fund for child care?

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the President of the Treasury Board is absent on government business. However, I will take notice of the Hon. Member's question and forward it to the Minister.

Ms. Mitchell: Will the Minister of Labour—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Again I am in a pure "take note" situation. I must go to the next Member.

* * *

TRADE**CANADA-UNITED STATES NEGOTIATIONS—COMPOSITION OF CANADIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM**

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Will he tell the House if Dr. Sylvia Ostry, our Ambassador for Multilateral Trade, is leaving to take up a position with the International Monetary Fund in Washington? Will he confirm that the only woman on the Multilateral Trade team right now will indeed leave that position soon?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, certainly I have no information to