

[English]

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**SUGGESTION THAT FLOODING OF SOURIS RIVER BE INCLUDED
IN TERMS OF REFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL JOINT
COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION OF GARRISON DAM**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. In view of the extensive flooding of the Souris River on both sides of the border in recent days and the recommendation of the governor of the state of North Dakota regarding the terms of reference of the IJC investigation into the Garrison dam project, would the hon. gentleman when he meets with the U.S. ambassador tomorrow to discuss the Garrison dam project recommend to the ambassador the extension of the terms of reference to include flooding of the Souris River?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the hon. member was not here on Friday when I made a correction to *Hansard* to the effect that I was not meeting with the United States ambassador tomorrow but had met with him. I intend to meet with my American counterpart in the coming weeks, but I do not know exactly when. As far as the Garrison diversion is concerned, this is in the hands of the IJC. I could very well look at the suggestion being made, but I know at this moment the problem is quite under control.

* * *

● (1440)

FLOODS**SOURIS RIVER AREA—POSSIBLE DECLARATION AS DISASTER
AREA**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question I should like to direct to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Has he received a request from the government of Manitoba to declare this area a disaster area, as has occurred on the United States side of the border?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any request from the government of Manitoba.

* * *

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**SKY SHOPS INVESTIGATION—KNOWLEDGE OF MR. JAMIESON
OF ROLE OF MR. CHATWOOD IN CONNECTION WITH SKY
SHOPS LEASE**

Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, in view of the answers by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce to questions about correspondence of the staff of the Department of Transport as recorded in *Hansard* at page 12609, will he now inform the House whether he is aware of those actions, as related to Sky Shops, taken by Mr. Andrew Chatwood, and will he report to the House on his findings?

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to what I said on Thursday. I indicated then I had been advised and made aware informally of the existence of this correspondence, but I have not seen it, nor do I know anything more about it than I mentioned at that time.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, I think it is probably incumbent upon the minister to apprise himself of the circumstances relating to his personal staff. Since the minister has informed us that he knew nothing of Mr. Chatwood's activities in this matter, can he inform the House whether he was even aware that a prolonged squabble had been going on for sometime regarding this particular lease extension and, if he was, what was his position vis-à-vis a non-tendered lease renewal for Sky Shops Export Limited?

Mr. Jamieson: In the first place, Mr. Speaker, I do not think I was aware of it. In any event, I question very much whether it would be appropriate for me at this point in time to go beyond the comment I made on Thursday. In terms of the substance of the question, so there will be no doubt that I am seeking to answer, at least to the limit the Chair would permit, I am not aware of any such squabble.

* * *

HUMAN RIGHTS**ARRANGEMENTS FOR RATIFICATION OF UNITED NATIONS
CHARTER—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It arises from a question I asked the hon. lady two or three weeks ago about arrangements for ratifying the United Nations Charter on Human rights. Have these procedures now been put in place with the provinces, or must we wait longer for the breakthrough to occur which we were promised on December 11?

[Translation]

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not have the answer ready on my mind. I have not heard that we have formally ratified the international instruments mentioned by the hon. member, but I hope as he does that it will be done at any moment; I shall inquire at my department.

* * *

[English]

FINANCE**POSSIBILITY BANKS REDUCING NUMBER OF SMALL BUSINESS
LOANS—REQUEST FOR REPORT**

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. Noting that tighter credit conditions are being felt by business as a result of higher interest rates and the Bank of Canada's efforts to control monetary expansion, will the minister undertake to ascertain whether the chartered banks are reducing lending activity under the Small