

Inquiries of the Ministry

[English]

Mr. Stanfield: Would it be true to say that all the talk about the corridor is mostly gas?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

* * *

POLLUTION**ACTION TO LIMIT CONTAMINATION RESULTING FROM SHIP COLLISION ON ST. CLAIR RIVER**

Mr. Jack Cullen (Sarnia-Lambton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport, but in his absence I will direct it to his parliamentary secretary. What action is being taken by the Department of Transport to assist the United States Coastguard in limiting pollution of the St. Clair River and shoreline as a result of a collision between two ships early this morning?

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, officials of my department are already on the scene of that unfortunate accident to look into the various aspects of the matter. Having occurred in American waters, the accident as such will require an inquiry; there is also the matter of pollution. Those two aspects are now being studied by the people who are on the spot.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed to ask a supplementary and the Chair will then recognize the hon. member for Comox-Alberni.

Mr. Cullen: Have officials of the United States Coastguard and/or the Department of Transport determined the extent of the threat posed by 40,000 plus gallons of bunker fuel carried by one of the ships?

[Translation]

Mr. Duquet: Mr. Speaker, I shall not be in a position to answer that question until we have received the reports of the investigators.

[English]

CHERRY POINT OIL SPILL—REPRESENTATIONS TO UNITED STATES RESPECTING POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO CANADIAN PROPERTY

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of statements the minister has made in this House and elsewhere that he would hold the government of the United States responsible for the results of any oil spills in the transport of oil on the Pacific coast, has the minister received any report of a spill of oil from a tanker at Cherry Point, Washington, moving toward or into Canadian waters and, if so, has he taken this matter

[Mr. Chrétien.]

up with the appropriate authorities of the United States government?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker. I have not heard this report. I will look into the matter and see whether we have a case to take up with the United States.

* * *

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SASKATCHEWAN BILL RESPECTING OWNERSHIP OF FARM LAND**

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. It has to do with the unCanadian, if not unconstitutional, course of action being taken by the government of Saskatchewan under what is called the foreign ownership of land bill whereby Canadians outside the province of Saskatchewan are denied the right to inherit or own land in Saskatchewan. The government of that province is now receiving representations in this connection. Has the government of Canada communicated with the government of Saskatchewan and pointed out the danger of legislation that denies Canadians equality in the holding of land?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the government has not formally communicated its view to the government of Saskatchewan at this point in time, but I think the government of Saskatchewan knows this government's views.

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I doubt whether that government is composed of mindreaders. Instead of relying on them having that capacity, will the minister inform that government that this kind of legislation is a denial of Canadianism?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Edmonton Centre.

• (1510)

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am trying to get an answer to a very simple question, but the minister, who is usually vociferous in his answers, seems to be disregarding a situation which is causing deep unrest in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker: I have to suggest to both the right hon. member for Prince Albert and the minister that the supplementary was rather in the form of a representation.

* * *

IMMIGRATION**EXTENSION OF VISITOR'S STATUS OF HOWARD HUGHES FOR ONE YEAR—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT**

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration, but since he is not here may I direct it to his vociferous parliamentary secretary. In view of the fact