

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

REASON FOR DELEGATION'S VISIT TO JAPAN

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. What issue or situation made it necessary for a Canadian Wheat Board delegation to travel to Japan to smooth out difficulties?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the trip by the Canadian Wheat Board commissioners was not simply to smooth out difficulties; it was part of the ongoing, very close relationship between the Wheat Board and the buyers of grain in Japan, where we once again have sold a very large quantity of wheat and barley for this year.

Mr. Towers: With modern technical facilities at its disposal, the Canadian Wheat Board can locate every boxcar of grain in western Canada. Why does the board not know the date of arrival of grain vessels and the type of grain to be loaded, so that west coast grain exports are not held up as much as they are at the present time, with 20 boats waiting there?

Mr. Speaker: With all due respect, I cannot see the connection between the previous question and this one as a supplementary.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

IMPORTATION OF MAGAZINES ENCOURAGING USE OF NARCOTICS—JUSTIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the Minister of National Revenue: it arises out of magazines sent to me by the Calgary police force. The three magazines are entitled *High Times*, *Rush* and *Head*. They deal with such matters as paraphernalia and equipment for the smoking of marijuana, growing it, importing it, using it, and they also encourage the use of LSD and hard drugs.

How can the minister justify these and other magazines coming from New York and other places in the United States, in light of the regulations which govern Customs with reference to the importation of these kinds of periodicals which counsel crime and are against the Criminal Code of Canada? Under the Narcotic Control Act, if young persons are caught importing marijuana, they can receive a sentence of seven years imprisonment.

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, many items come into this country, such as narcotics, which customs officers do not even see. The hon. member knows that. Municipal and provincial governments have the right to license those who sell magazines—municipal governments in particular. They can control this by the simple fact that if these people do not do what the municipalities want them to do, they can take away their licence. They can do away with sex shops and newsstands, if they wish.

Oral Questions

I do not understand why the hon. member insists on putting the entire blame on Revenue Canada, or the government of Canada, when this situation can be controlled at the local level. Many magazines are not allowed into Canada, specifically those the hon. member has mentioned. I will be interested in continuing discussion on this matter with the hon. member. I will follow up this question and give an answer with regard to the magazines the hon. member has mentioned.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

INVESTIGATION INTO LEGALITY OF IMPORTATION OF MAGAZINES ENCOURAGING USE OF NARCOTICS

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I wish to follow up this matter by asking the Minister of Justice a question. The Minister of National Revenue talked about the right of municipalities to issue licences to those selling these magazines. I am speaking of breaking the law by counselling crime. I am at a loss to understand his answer. Will the Minister of Justice, as the chief law officer of Canada, recommend to the provincial attorneys general that this matter be investigated? By permitting these magazines to be picked up by young people, the law is being broken. The Minister of Justice could walk into any police court in Canada on any day of the week, and he would find 25 or 30 people charged with offences such as those encouraged in these periodicals. In addition to recommending to the provincial attorneys general that these periodicals be investigated, will the minister recommend that charges be laid against the distributors, if he cannot get hold of the creators of this type of crime?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I do not know which magazines the hon. member has in his possession. If he will give them to me, I will be happy to consider them. I know that some magazines which seem to promote the use of pot have been the subject of investigation by the attorneys general. Whether these three magazines fall within that category, I do not know. If the hon. member will give them to me, I will be happy to refer them to the attorneys general.

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COMMUNICATIONS

REQUEST GOVERNMENT LIMIT MONOPOLY OF BELL CANADA THROUGH RATE REDUCTION

Mr. Peter Stollery (Spadina): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. Its recent application before the CRTC for a 20 per cent increase suggests that the Bell Canada monopoly of the Canadian telecommunications and telephone system is stifling fair competition and driving up prices. Will the government consider limiting these monopolistic prices, and will it act to declare telephone and transmission lines as public utilities and mediums serviced and operated by a private operation?