

Oral Questions

its clothes. On the first occasion, some of these clothes were indeed given to charitable organizations. In the other case, the company did not want to do that. I think this is unfortunate because these clothes could have been used for charitable purposes. Unfortunately, this has not been the case; they had to be destroyed.

[English]

REASON JEANS WERE INCORRECTLY LABELLED AND BY WHOM

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Can the minister advise whether his department or the government is taking any steps to investigate the reason why these jeans were incorrectly labelled and whether they were incorrectly labelled by foreign manufacturers outside Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I can check this and I shall report to the hon. member as soon as possible.

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[English]

STATISTICS CANADA

DATE OF TREASURY BOARD APPROVED OF CONTRACT TO HEAL, SHAW AND WALDEN FOR SURVEY—REASON FOR USE OF OUTSIDE FIRM

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the President of the Treasury Board. Given the extensive operations of Statistics Canada in the field of survey research, will the minister tell the House when Treasury Board approved a \$50,000 contract to the Toronto public relations firm of Heal, Shaw and Walden to survey attitudes of the general public toward Statistics Canada?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am not cognizant of a question as precise as this one. I shall inquire and report to the hon. member.

[English]

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Will the minister advise whether the contract was tendered and why it was considered necessary to award this survey to an outside firm, given the extensive resources that Statistics Canada has to handle such a study.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I cannot provide details on the contract, but I have been given the reason that Statistics Canada entered into this agreement. It was that this particular firm has expertise in sampling public attitudes which Statistics Canada does not have.

[Mr. Ouellet.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED NATO SUMMIT MEETING—POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN CONCERNING AGENDA

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister or any member of his cabinet been in touch with the Americans or the British to ascertain their views on the topics to be discussed at a NATO summit meeting in Brussels on May 29 and 30? Since NATO is a cultural, military and economic alliance, has Canada prepared a position which it will take at the summit meeting which will not only strengthen the NATO military alliance, but also hopefully strengthen our economy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I believe the answer given by the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs the other day to the effect that the summit is still being discussed is the proper answer at this time.

Mr. Baldwin: Maybe it will find your link there.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I hear people in the galleries laughing. They are laughing at their own show. There is no need for that. They laughed enough Saturday night.

An hon. Member: You stage-managed it.

Mr. Trudeau: I gave the substance of the subject. I know that the meeting has not been set in a firm way. As to the topics to be discussed, I will check whether the minister has had any conversations with the Americans. Certainly, it is a subject that I discussed with the United Kingdom government last month when I was in London. We talked about possible dates and possible subjects. At this stage, I think it is too early to answer in any firm way about the date or the agenda.

REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF LEGALITY OF OPERATIONS OF FALCONBRIDGE NICKEL MINES IN NAMIBIA

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. At the recent annual meeting of the shareholders of Falconbridge Nickel Mines, the president made it clear that that company proposed, through a subsidiary, to continue to operate in Namibia without the consent of the council for Namibia which was given full authority over that territory by the United Nations Security Council, and that Falconbridge was going to continue to seek to make profits out of the illegal maintenance of the apartheid system in that country. Will the minister seek legal advice as to whether these operations are illegal and whether action can be taken to restrain the continued defiance by the company of the United Nations and its resolutions?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for having given my office notice of this question. I immediately conveyed it to the department which is now making inquiries as to the factual situation. After that has been done, I hope to be able to answer the question.