

Oral Questions

discussions with us about any of the alternatives mentioned.

INQUIRY AS TO DISCUSSION WITH UNITED STATES
CONCERNING USE OF HEAD HARBOUR PASSAGE BY TANKERS
EN ROUTE TO EASTPORT, MAINE OR ALTERNATIVES

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): In the general question of oil pipelines and the American need for oil, another part of Canada has been deeply affected, and I am wondering whether the minister could let us know whether there have been any contacts by his department with the Pittston Company to see whether it is planning to send, without Canadian government consent or approval, tankers through the Head Harbour Passage to Eastport, Maine. Has the Canadian government any plans to prevent them from doing this?

● (1430)

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, we have made it clear that any such movement would be quite unacceptable to Canada. The environmental board in Maine, as I recollect the situation, authorized the Pittston Company officials to proceed with the oil terminal on the condition that certain permissions would be secured from Canada for the movement through Head Harbour Passage. To my knowledge the United States government has not spoken to us about these requirements of Pittston. I might say that if they did, the answer would still be that any such movement would be quite unacceptable because of the environmental hazards involved.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): A final supplementary. In his discussions with the United States officials has the minister made any alternative suggestions, such as offloading in Lennoxville or St. John's and a pipeline from St. John's to Eastport, Maine. The government might as well be at least constructive.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, we have not made specific proposals along those lines, although I believe in general terms we expressed interest in exploring alternatives with them. In the light of proceedings under way, we have not made specific proposals.

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POST OFFICE

REQUEST FOR ISSUANCE OF STAMP TO COMMEMORATE ONE
HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF ROYAL
MILITARY COLLEGE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Postmaster General. Some months ago, knowing his respect for the heritage of our country, I asked the minister to consider issuing a special stamp in 1976 to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of Canada's famous and distinguished Royal Military College at Kingston. Is the minister in a position to tell the House if the anniversary will be suitably recognized by his department?

[Mr. MacEachen.]

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is quite correct in stating we have exchanged much correspondence on the subject and there has been a great deal of representation from other members of the House as well as the general public. I am pleased to announce that we will issue a stamp to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the Royal Military College.

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COMMUNICATIONS

EFFECT OF SYMPOSIUM ON VIOLENCE ON TELEVISION OF
HOLDING OF PUBLIC HEARING ON SUBJECT BY CRTC

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications and I am sorry I did not have an opportunity to give him notice. May I ask him if the planned symposium on violence on television which is to take place in Kingston next month, and is sponsored by the CRTC, means that the CRTC will not be holding public hearings on this very disturbing problem across the country. There is a great deal of concern about the question, especially in the light of the alleged connection with the growth of crimes of violence.

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I do not feel that this symposium excludes the possibility of the CRTC holding hearings. But to be more precise in my reply, I would have to refer the question before hand to the chairman of the CRTC.

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

LEVY CHARGED ON MANUFACTURING MILK—GOVERNMENT
POSITION

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture a question? He has had notice of it since last Thursday through the Acting Minister of Agriculture when I suppose the minister was unavoidably absent. Does the government intend that dairy farmers should bear the cost of deficits created as a result of the government's inefficient marketing methods pertaining to powdered milk?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I do not accept the preamble to the hon. member's question. We have the most efficient pricing system available to industrial milk producers anywhere in the world. The agreement we are abiding by is one to which the producers agreed. I have said before in this House that I think it is unfair that we ask nobody else in society to take lesser incomes because of world conditions. We are trying very hard to work out a solution for our dairy farmers. I said last week we are still working with them to try to solve their problem concerning the export of skim milk powder. They are competing with the producers and treasuries in the countries of the European Community.