

Oral Questions

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have had some contact because I sent messages of sympathy to the countries whose nationals had been killed in the same helicopter crash. I have under consideration having discussions with their representatives here or through our representative abroad in those countries as to their reaction to this unfortunate tragedy.

[Translation]

Mr. Wagner: I would like to ask a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

Did the minister protest to the NLF and did he receive any apologies for this incident?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: No, Mr. Speaker. We have received from the representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government an explanation of the event which is the same as the one I gave in my statement to the House in which they claimed that the helicopter was off course and that there was an accident.

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[Translation]

YOUTH

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—SUGGESTION THAT BUDGET BE DOUBLED

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. Secretary of State.

In view of the fact that inadequacy of credits made available to the department in charge of administration of the Opportunities for Youth program makes it impossible for the minister to approve more than one-third of projects submitted, could he tell us whether he intends to call for an emergency meeting of the Cabinet in order to consider the possibility of doubling the amounts allocated to that program?

[English]

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker, we are not.

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GRAIN

DEFINITION OF "PRODUCER" FOR VOTE ON WHETHER FLAX, RAPESEED AND RYE SHOULD BE MARKETED THROUGH WHEAT BOARD

Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board supplementary to a question already asked. In view of the mounting interest in western Canada in the forthcoming vote on the marketing of flax, rapeseed and rye through the Canadian Wheat Board, may I ask the minister what the definition or requirements of a voting producer will be?

[Mr. Wagner.]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): I cannot answer at this stage, Mr. Speaker. We are having discussions with various farm organizations concerning the nature of any questions put, and also the qualifications of voters. There have been suggestions as to two basic types, that it be a vote by rapeseed growers only, on the one hand, or a vote by all permitholders on the other. This is the issue to be resolved.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

VIET NAM—POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBER NATIONS OF ICCS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs is supplementary to the one asked by the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe. Have any of the other countries represented on the International Commission of Control and Supervision suggested in any way that as a result of recent events they wish to withdraw from the commission or see it dissolved?

• (1510)

Mr. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker. I have received no reports or representations of that kind. The commission, of course, is considering the implications of the tragedy for the operations of the commission itself, but that relates to the deployment of the teams.

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CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION

REASON FOR REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF WOMEN MEMBERS AND THOSE WITH BROADCASTING EXPERIENCE

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. What was the basis of the criterion that the minister used to reduce from two to one, out of a total of 15, the number of women serving with the CRTC, and to reduce from three to two the number of individuals with broadcasting experience?

[Translation]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, first, I must say that there is constant disruptions in agencies of this kind. We must always attempt to reach the most perfect equilibrium. I would add for the encouragement of the hon. member that vacancies sometimes occur in the CRTC as in other similar agencies. Even if, at times, there seems to be some disruption, the government keeps in mind that it must be remedied as soon as possible.

[English]

Mr. Nowlan: In view of the importance of the CRTC to the communications industry in Canada and the quasi-judicial nature of that body, would the minister check with the chairman of the CRTC so that he may assure the