

ronment and Fisheries that he is considering employing charter vessels as an immediate step to beef up our protection capability, would the Prime Minister take steps immediately to turn over to the Department of the Environment and Fisheries the destroyer escorts *St. Laurent*, *Fraser* and *Ottawa* presently at Halifax, and the *St. Croix* on the west coast?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will have the matter looked into and will take the question as notice in order to see whether it offers any constructive alternatives.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ALLEGED DISCOVERY OF HIDEOUT OF NORMAN LEBLANC—ACTION TO EXTRADITE FROM COSTA RICA— REPRESENTATIONS BY UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs.

In view of the discovery yesterday in Costa Rica of the hide-out of Norman Leblanc, who is wanted here in connection with a fraud amounting to \$107 million, is it the intention of his department to have discussions or institute proceedings with the government of Costa Rica President Figueres aiming at the extradition of Leblanc and his surrendering to Canada, and more specifically to Quebec?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, may I have the privilege of taking that question as notice.

[Translation]

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

Did the United States government make representations to the minister concerning Norman Leblanc following the latter's allegations about the Watergate affair?

[English]

Mr. Sharp: Not to me personally, Mr. Speaker, but I will make inquiries in my department.

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GRAIN

REPORTED DROP IN FLOUR SALES TO GREAT BRITAIN— REPRESENTATIONS TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of recent reports that sales of flour to Great Britain, which has been a traditional market for Canada, have dropped to zero in 1973, can the minister say whether the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce or his own department is making any representations to the British government in view of their entry into the Common Market?

Oral Questions

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, a very short time ago the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce had discussions with the British in connection with their entry, and agricultural and grain matters were very high on his list. I will attempt to keep the hon. member informed about current figures on sales.

Mr. Gleave: Do the recent reported statements by Mr. Gifford, chief of the agricultural trade policy division, that Canada is not making any final policy decisions for the coming trade negotiations under GATT until the United States has decided on its approach and stated it, mean that this represents the government's position and policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question asked in those terms is not in order.

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AIR TRANSPORT

POSITION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Would the hon. gentleman kindly advise the House whether the bilateral air agreement meetings scheduled to take place last week and this week between Canada and the United States were terminated on Friday? If so, at whose instance were they terminated and what were the grounds for such termination?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the negotiations are continuing.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Would the minister kindly advise the House how it is that according to reports the negotiations or discussions have been suspended?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I cannot explain that. All I know is that they have been very difficult and it may be that there has been an adjournment for a few days for the two sides to consider their respective positions. But the negotiations continue.

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AIR CANADA

ROTATING STRIKES BY MACHINISTS—CONSIDERATION BY GOVERNMENT OF LEGISLATION TO ENFORCE RETURN TO WORK

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Having regard to the fact that airline strikes seem to be becoming an annual event, to the discomfiture of the travelling public of Canada and the upsetting of our entire economy, is consideration being given on the part of the minister and the government to bringing in legislation to the effect that those employed by the airline should be required to return to work with negotiations then to continue?