

Oral Questions

Government's offer. If our offer cannot be maintained, all the efforts of the federal Government to prevent Pêcheurs-Unis from going bankrupt will have been for nothing, and not the creditors will lose money but the fishermen themselves who, with the factory workers, have invested over \$1,200,000 of their own money in this co-operative, and the Government of Quebec and the Government of Canada who represent Canadian taxpayers as well. That is why we made an offer under which fishermen will not have to invest again, and we shall set up a large company in which fishermen, factory workers, unions, creditors and both Governments will be asked to work together. However, I repeat that if Newport changes its mind, I think we will have to reconsider our position, because—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I hesitate to interrupt the Hon. Minister, but his answer is getting longer and longer. Could he perhaps finish his answer?

Mr. De Bané: Very briefly then Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Government's offer is a comprehensive offer to the entire Pêcheurs-Unis movement, and if the Government of Quebec wants to take care of Newport, it is welcome to do so, provided it does the same for all other factories.

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[English]

VIA RAIL

CANCELLATION OF TOUR SERVICE TO NORTHERN MANITOBA

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. As he is probably aware, there has been a lot of concern in northern Manitoba about the lack of service or co-operation by VIA Rail with the tourist industry. Churchill Wilderness Encounters cancelled five tours this year. Toronto based Horizon Holiday Tours have expressed absolute frustration in dealing with VIA. Travel Network of California has stopped bringing people to Churchill. Great West Tours of San Francisco have also stopped bringing people in.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Will the Hon. Member please ask his question?

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, it is not my fault that there are so many problems at VIA. Will the Minister investigate and see what he can do to improve the marketing practices of VIA, especially from Winnipeg to northern Manitoba?

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we are presently doing that.

UNITED NATIONS

NICARAGUAN RESOLUTION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the fact that a Nicaraguan resolution is up for debate in the UN General Assembly today, with a vote anticipated tomorrow, would the Minister indicate to the House the position the Government of Canada intends to take respecting this resolution? In particular, will the Government be voting in support of the resolution and continue its condemnation of the Caribbean countries' and American intervention in Grenada?

Mr. Broadbent: Where do you stand?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, instructions have not yet been delivered to the Canadian delegation on what position they ought to take on this resolution. The situation is changing rather quickly at the General Assembly. There may be amendments, there may be further resolutions, and until the situation is fully clarified it is not the intention of the Government to give specific instructions. But such instructions will be given, and the Canadian delegation will be asked to take a stand on this particular resolution.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INVASION OF GRENADA—REQUEST FOR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Chairman of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence has not been seen in the House for questions since last Friday when I asked him if he would arrange through the steering committee—

Mr. Mulroney: There he is.

Mr. Stevens: Good. Mr. Speaker, would the chairman of that committee indicate to the House if he has now made arrangements for an immediate reference to be heard in that committee with respect to the Grenadian affair so that there can be an open discussion in a committee of this House about all facts and activities on Canada's role leading up to and during the intervention in Grenada?

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): First of all, Mr. Speaker, I am very surprised that the Hon. Member should have noticed my absence since last Friday, for I was in the House yesterday, the day before yesterday, and I am here now. I did say quite clearly that I would consider the advisability of convening the steering committee. I might point out to the Hon. Member that I followed the debate earlier today, even though I had other consultations to make, as I had promised, behind the curtains and in private, that I would. I am still