

Oral Questions

in Canada, will come up with a set of recommendations which would then lead to the licensing process some time this fall. We would like to get to the bottom of the problem, which is really one of extending services to the north in a legal manner. In the meantime, we indicated, and the CRTC indicated, that we would have a look on an ad hoc basis, on a case by case basis, at the operation of unlicensed satellite stations in Canada, particularly in areas where these unlicensed stations were interfering with the activities of licensed cable operators in this country.

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● (1450)

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

NARCOTICS SEIZURE—INQUIRY WHETHER CHARGES TO BE LAID

Mr. Garnet M. Bloomfield (London-Middlesex): Madam Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Solicitor General. Will charges be laid with regard to the RCMP seizing the drugs on board a ship off the coast of Nova Scotia last weekend?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, that was a successful operation by the RCMP. The smugglers, from our intelligence, were trying to land in Connecticut and were chased by the American coast guard north into Canadian waters, or close to Canadian waters. They never intended to land in Canada. They never came to Canadian territorial waters. Therefore, in the intermediate zone where they were seized—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Kaplan: I am coming to the answer. In the intermediate zone where they were seized—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Madam Speaker: Order. The Chair is having difficulty following what is going on in the House. Those who are having conversations with their seatmates will please do so in a lower voice.

Mr. Kaplan: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In the intermediate zone where the seizure took place, international convention does not permit a coastal state to lay charges, but the coastal state is entitled—and the RCMP did—to seize the ship, to seize the cargo, and of course they will be confiscated.

PENSIONS

INQUIRY WHETHER LEGISLATION PREPARED RESPECTING AGREEMENT WITH WEST GERMANY ON DOUBLE TAXATION

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Madam Speaker, I have a very important question for the Minister of State (Finance). I gave him notice of the question in the form of a 43 a couple of weeks ago.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Oberle: It relates to the rather discriminatory practice of double taxation of Canadian citizens who have earned certain pension rights in the Federal Republic of West Germany. It is my understanding that there is an agreement about to be signed. Can the minister inform the House today whether we have responded to the request of the Federal Republic to enter into this agreement, and does he have the legislation prepared to facilitate such a request?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State, Finance): Madam Speaker, I recall the notice the hon. member gave me about the taxation agreement. As the hon. member knows very well, we are negotiating such agreements with several countries. There have been some references to several of those agreements in the House. Many of those agreements are ready to be signed. Some have already been signed and legislation in that regard is being drafted. If we made good progress in the business of the House, we could soon proceed with consideration of a bill concerning those taxation agreements.

[*English*]

Mr. Oberle: Can the minister tell me whether the particular agreement with the Federal Republic of West Germany has been signed and, if so, would it have to await the signing of a number of other agreements before legislation would be introduced to approach the problem in a global sense?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Bussières: Madam Speaker, I do not remember whether the agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany has been signed. I shall inquire and give the reply to the hon. member. We would rather wait and conclude as many agreements as possible before incorporating them into a bill.

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[*English*]

TRADE

COMMITTEE STUDY OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PROPOSED NATIONAL TRADING COMPANY

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Madam Speaker, can the Prime Minister tell the House when we can expect to receive the terms of reference for a study by a committee of this House of a national trading company?