

*Oral Questions***STORMS****REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE SUFFERING
DAMAGE IN LAKE ERIE REGION**

Mr. William Knowles (Norfolk-Haldimand): Mr. Speaker, this is a follow-up question to a previous question asked regarding the violent storm on the Great Lakes. It is directed to the Minister of the Environment. It relates specifically to the unprecedented storm damage on the north shore of Lake Erie. I should like to ask the minister whether the government has taken any initiative in approaching the province of Ontario, which is assessing the damage, with a view to declaring the north shore a disaster area in order that individuals, communities and small businesses which have suffered grievous losses will qualify for federal assistance.

Hon. Jeanne Sauv  (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, the department has not taken the initiative because that initiative should come from the government of the Province of Ontario.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ALLEGED PERSECUTION OF ROMAN CATHOLICS BY
GOVERNMENT OF CHILE—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It relates to the reports of recent days of considerable persecution of members of the Roman Catholic church in Chile, the arrest of priests and nuns and even more recently the house arrest of Cardinal DeSilva, the head of the Catholic Church in Chile. I believe the minister has received a telegram of support sent by the Canadian Catholic Conference to the church in Chile and I am wondering whether he has had an opportunity to examine the deterioration of the situation in Chile and the increasing persecution of the Catholic people there.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have asked that inquiries be made concerning the present situation in Chile. I have not received a full report and would like to await that report before answering the question.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, because there seems to be a substantial erosion since the September 7 ad hoc report to the UN on human rights in Chile can the minister indicate whether he is using other sources beyond contacts with our own embassy in Santiago, realizing the difficulty we have had in the past in getting a full and complete story.

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, we use other sources as well.

[Mr. Gillespie.]

FOREIGN INVESTMENT**POSSIBILITY OF ALLOWING TAKEOVER OF WESTINGHOUSE BY
WHITE CONSOLIDATED—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the recent developments in the matter of Westinghouse Canada and White Consolidated Industries of Cleveland, Ohio, over the use of the name and trademark of Westinghouse, and bearing in mind that Canada is a signatory to the Treaty of Paris in which, as I understand it, we have agreed to treat foreign-owned trademarks and patents on the same basis as Canadian instruments of the same nature, and noting that we are negotiating at GATT for expansion of international free trade, will the minister agree that Canada must live up to the spirit and letter of its international commitments, and in this particular instance should possibly reverse the decision of the Foreign Investment Review Agency by allowing takeover of Westinghouse Canada Appliance Division by White Consolidated Industries.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, clearly under the circumstances, since this matter is now in the courts in the United States, it would be quite inappropriate for me to answer the hon. member concerning what our future course of action would be. In any event, it is always open to applicants under the Foreign Investment Review Act to re-apply. This is not something which comes to them by any grace on the part of the government. My main concern at the moment continues to be to ensure that jobs in Hamilton are protected. The Minister of Labour, just a few minutes ago asked me if I would meet with the union representatives from Hamilton and I agreed to do so as soon as possible.

**REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER EXAMINE SITUATION
CREATED BY WHITE CONSOLIDATED BID TO TAKE OVER
WESTINGHOUSE**

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have one supplementary which I should like to direct to the Prime Minister, if I may apologize for interrupting his conversation. Bearing in mind that all parties agree the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has handled this matter with great skill and diligence but that it has moved into an area of the interpretation of international agreements versus domestic policy, will the Prime Minister examine the matter on a top priority basis and endeavour to resolve whether the terms and integrity of the Treaty of Paris in fact take precedence over a decision of the Foreign Investment Review Board and use his office to resolve the serious matter with all possible speed as the jobs of 2,800 people hang in the balance, not to mention a long established profitable business.

● (1440)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would certainly consider the suggestion made by the hon. member and I certainly share his opinion of the high skill of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.