

Oral Questions

should like to ask whether the minister can bring us up to date on the strike at Teleglobe; and if it is still continuing, what does she personally intend to do to avoid a further black eye that Canada may get over this whole Olympic situation?

[Translation]

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, the strike, which was to have lasted for a period of 24 hours, is going on and the impression is that it will continue for an indefinite length of time. Through consultations with the president of Teleglobe, I am doing what is necessary to resume negotiations. It is extremely regrettable that these negotiations must be made under pressure because the Olympics are to be held shortly. It is always very difficult to negotiate a solution under such conditions. In any case, I can reassure the hon. member by saying that measures are being taken to ensure essential services for retransmission of the Olympic Games in Europe. Essential services will be maintained. Extremely strict measures have now been taken against any attempt at wilfully damaging the equipment; our main effort, however, is directed at resuming the negotiations.

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ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POLLUTION OF ST. LAWRENCE SHORES—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Environment.

Could he tell the House if he is aware of recent complaints made by residents along the St. Lawrence River at Pointe-aux-Trembles about a renewed outbreak of pollution from oil? If so, what does he intend to do to correct the situation? Moreover, has the minister held or does he intend to hold with the qualified authorities in Quebec talks aimed at exercising continued and more efficient supervision to protect the environment in that part of the St. Lawrence River, next to the Montreal urban area?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Acting Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I must admit that I tried to read most of the files, but I have not become acquainted with this one. I will do so and try to give an answer to the hon. member tomorrow.

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[English]

FISHERIES

REASON FOR LACK OF PATROLS BY FISHERIES VESSELS ON THE WEST COAST

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, while I am on my feet may I offer some more information to the hon. member for Victoria on the question of offshore surveillance in the Pacific. I said yesterday that the *Tanu*, one of our modern vessels, was in refit. That was misinformation; it is under repair because of an unexpected engine failure. The *Laurier* is also under refit. We are using other vessels for surveillance and DND is also

[Mr. Nowlan.]

giving us a hand. In fact, for this year there will be 495 sea days of fishery surveillance compared to 180 for 1975, this being made possible through the excellent co-operation of the DND and the Ministry of Transport.

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FINANCE

GOVERNMENT ACTION TO EVALUATE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question was intended for the President of the Treasury Board but in his absence I think the Minister of Finance could handle it very adequately, I am sure.

Mr. Hees: You don't know Donald.

Mr. Halliday: I will try anyway. Now that the government of Canada is rated second highest spender in 1975 for space and time advertising among all businesses and corporations in Canada, according to figures released recently by Elliott Research of Toronto, would the minister tell the House what, if any, money is budgeted to obtain evidence by independent research workers as to the efficacy and success of the \$11 million spent by the federal government in 1975?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, that involves a statistical response beyond an answer that I can give today, but I will yet be glad to dig it out and write to the hon. member.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER JURISDICTION OVER IMPORT PERMITS TO DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE

Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. Is serious consideration being given to a proposal to remove the Canadian Wheat Board's import licensing powers on grains over which they have jurisdiction with a view to having these powers transferred to the import permits branch of industry, trade and commerce?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the general notion of the transfer of power over import control to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce was included in our broad feed grains policy statement in 1973 and 1974, has been repeated since, and it is our intention to do that at some convenient time. We do not consider it either a major change or an urgent matter, because as a practical matter the permit system operates as though the power were residing there. However, it is seen rather as a presentational matter better to have what appears to be a neutral agency in charge of the permits.