

SEARCH AND RESCUE

REQUEST THAT HELICOPTERS BE STATIONED AT ST. JOHN'S, NFLD.

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Mines in the absence of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The abandonment yesterday of the oil rig *Vinland* dramatically highlights and emphasizes the danger to our off-shore workers.

The Minister of National Defence has indicated that in his estimation there is sufficient deployment off the east coast of Newfoundland, in reply to a request from the Newfoundland Government for direct access to helicopters for the offshore workers. The Minister knows that this year there are very hazardous ice fields out there. Can the Minister tell the House and his own Province why the Government will not agree to the reasonable and responsible request of the Government of Newfoundland to have helicopters placed in St. John's so that they will be directly accessible to the 500 workers out there who are in constant danger?

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of State (Mines)): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's question. I want to assure him of my own concern over that matter, as I am sure he, and indeed the people of the Province, are deeply concerned.

I think to focus on the helicopters exclusively is possibly not to paint the whole picture. I think a lot has been done in the past couple of years to improve the situation with regard to search and rescue off the East Coast. Many guidelines and procedures have been put in place. There is a lot of equipment that was not there before.

I also point out to him that there are other ships, such as fishing ships and transport ships, that must be accounted for in addition to the drill rigs.

I would say to him that I do not think that we can ever rest easy about any system. I think we should continue to monitor that, and as we proceed into the development stage I think we should be very careful that every possible consideration is given to putting the best possible search and rescue system in place.

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RAILWAYS

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT FUND

Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Would he tell the House whether he still has the \$204 million Agricultural Adjustment Fund available to him? Is it his intention to use that fund, if it is still available, to alleviate the livestock hurt as a result of the Crow Bill as was indicated in the Gilson report, or will he use it for a new feed grains policy for which the Minister of Agriculture seems to be intending its use?

Business of the House

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, we addressed that particular question several times during the committee debates on the Grain Transportation Act. What I indicated at that time still holds true. The money that was set aside to provide for that adjustment was related to the method of payments question. My intention is to establish an inquiry committee as early as this April to look into the various choices and alternatives in the method of payment. We would not want to have any disposition of those funds until some report was made back to Parliament and some conclusions were made so the money would be relayed to that specific part of the Act, which is very central to the operation of the entire Bill.

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● (1200)

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, consultations have been held by the Prime Minister of Canada and the other Party leaders, and it seems there is unanimous consent for the following: first, to allow the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) to move forthwith a Resolution concerning language and language rights in Manitoba. Once the Resolution has been moved, the understanding is that there will be one speaker for each Party which will enable adoption of the Resolution without further debate.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that you seek unanimous consent of the House for allowing the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) to move the Resolution, and then put the Resolution before the House. The Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) will then make his speech, followed by one speaker for each Opposition Party.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) to introduce the motion?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Mr. Speaker, the consultations referred to by the Government House Leader have, in fact, taken place. He has stated the agreement that will be arrived at after the three representatives of the respective parties in the House have spoken. The motion will be deemed to have been passed. We agree to that. We are also giving unanimous consent to the motion being presented at this time.

Mr. Young: Mr. Speaker, the statement of the House Leader for the Government side is in conformity with our understanding and our agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed and so ordered.