

its inspectors. Can he assure the House that necessary steps will be taken to protect these landowners?

**Mr. Drury:** Because of the rainfall and the resulting erosion, I must advise the hon. member that this is not a federal responsibility. The federal government is mainly concerned with the effects of navigation on erosion. Although we are looking for solutions, the cause he is talking about does not exist at this time.

**Mr. Fortin:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a final supplementary question.

If the minister wanted to go into politics, he would certainly have an excellent future, for he is very good at evading the issue. He knows what I mean. The rainfalls did aggravate the situation, but that does not settle the matter of the erosion caused by navigation, since ships have a much larger tonnage now and their speed is not the same as when the regulations were passed. I shall ask the minister when those regulations will be changed as regards the prescribed distance of 3,000 feet from the shore, a question he refuses to answer now. So I ask him again. Will he change these regulations, in order to take into consideration the tonnage and speed of ships, and to protect the property on both shores of the St. Lawrence River?

**Mr. Drury:** Mr. Speaker, I accept what the hon. member said. We are reviewing the regulations as rapidly as possible.

#### AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RETAINING WALLS

**Mr. Bernard Loiselle (Chambly):** A supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

Can the minister assure us that his department has the necessary funds to build the walls required under current standards? I shall not criticize the fact that these standards have been increased, such as the 3,000-foot limit, but I would like to know if the walls which are to be erected where the shores are less than 3,000 feet from the channel will indeed be built.

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, some credits have been approved by Parliament, but unfortunately all the funds required for this purpose, this year, were not allocated.

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● (1120)

[English]

#### EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

##### SUGGESTION UNITED STATES REQUESTED EXPULSION OF PRESS ATTACHÉ OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I would direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs which has to do with an attaché in the Chinese embassy who was expelled by our country. This matter was before the House on April 29 at which

#### Oral Question

time the minister indicated that because of the possibility of relations with mainland China being exacerbated as a result of any revelations he would not go into detail. I now ask whether he has had brought to his attention a broadcast last night over the CBC in connection with this matter in which the CBC reported that this man was expelled from Canada at the request of the United States administration because he was engaged in activities detrimental to the United States. Now that this statement has been made by the CBC in its news, and whatever criticism there may be of the CBC there has never been criticism of the factuality or objectivity of its news items—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** —is the minister prepared to go further than he went the other day before these revelations were made?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I certainly congratulate the right hon. member for his sense of humour. I certainly appreciate it in this context. I am afraid I cannot go much further than I did the other day, even as a result of further speculative reports by the CBC. I will say, however, that the action taken by the government of Canada was not taken at the request of any other government.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** Could the minister not go a little further as there apparently is no danger to security in what was done. Surely there is no reason that this should be covered up in this way, otherwise it would appear that the government has the sense of humour in evidently trying to keep from parliament that which has become public knowledge?

**Mr. MacEachen:** Mr. Speaker, I have stated that the particular member of the embassy was asked to withdraw because of activities which were considered to be incompatible with his status as a representative in Canada. I believe I am obliged to deal with the matter in a way that will maintain the good relationship between Canada and China and I think further disclosure of details would certainly not be in the public interest.

##### EXPULSION OF PRESS ATTACHÉ OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA—METHOD BY WHICH ACTIVITIES CAME TO KNOWLEDGE OF GOVERNMENT

**Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal):** I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I gave the minister's office notice that I would pursue this today so I hope the minister can be a little more forthcoming than he was to the right hon. member for Prince Albert. How did the matter first come to the attention of the government of Canada and under whose auspices? Who first informed the Government of Canada that the actions of the Chinese diplomat were incompatible with his status here?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, that conclusion was reached by the Canadian Government—

**An hon. Member:** That is not the question.