

Oral Questions

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for raising the same question on this occasion that he did a week or so ago. The fact of the matter is that we have an extremely good industrial offset package from both of these companies. The problems General Dynamics is having with the F100 motor for the F16 are well known, and they will either have to develop a new motor, I expect, or do something about the current one. It would appear to me unlikely that a large company such as that, which has sold something in the neighbourhood of 1,600 planes, would be content to go along with an inefficient engine.

As far as the F18A is concerned, the faults which were pointed out in the article to which the hon. member referred are relatively minor and I feel certain they will be corrected.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL UNITY**ALLEGED ANTI-FRENCH CANADIAN INCIDENT IN VANCOUVER—
GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Jacques Olivier (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has no doubt been informed of a serious event that took place in Vancouver this weekend, namely that several spectators at a hockey game between Vancouver and Montreal booed the part of the national anthem that was sung in French. Is the Prime Minister ready to condemn such acts and to support the bilingual character of Canada?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I deeply regret acts such as the one described by the hon. member, and I think that one of the things which we, as members of a federal and bilingual Parliament, can do is to use both languages in Vancouver as well as in Chicoutimi.

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[English]

ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY**DEVELOPMENTS RESPECTING TOLLS**

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Transport. During the May 22 election campaign, many of the candidates of the peninsula were going around the area saying that the Seaway tolls were going to be lowered. Since that time, the Minister of State (Transport) has said no, that the Seaway tolls are going to come in as of April 1. Then there was another flip-flop just recently.

Have there been any discussions with the shipbuilders of Canada and, second, are there any new developments with regard to the Seaway tolls which the minister could share with this House and with the people of Canada?

[Mr. Buchanan.]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the position of the Conservative party in the last election was that the matter of further increases in Seaway tolls would be deferred until such time as there was a full and adequate examination of the increases. We are now in the process of establishing an advisory board which will, among other things, have the opportunity to look into the prospect of future increases in the tolls and to determine whether such increases are, in fact, necessary.

Mr. Parent: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the advisory board the minister intends to set up, could he please inform this House as to the possible make-up or probable make-up of the men and women who are going to sit on this advisory council? Also, when is it going to be established, so that the rules under which they will be working can be understood by them and all of us who are involved with the Seaway and with the tolls which emanate from it?

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to do that. The terms of reference are presently in the process of being drafted. The positions will certainly be made known to the House and to the Canadian people. I can assure the hon. member that I will personally see that he gets a copy of the terms of reference, and I hope he has some suggestions to make.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION**REFERENDUM DEBATE—ATTITUDE OF CORPORATION
PRESIDENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State. Basically, I would like to receive some clarification concerning the role of the CBC in the referendum debate in Quebec.

In view of, among other things, the terms of reference of the corporation as defined in the Broadcasting Act, which are to strengthen the Canadian mosaic, can the minister say how he reacted to the position adopted last week by the president of CBC who said that the corporation would not take part in the debate, that it would content itself with reporting accurately and impartially both the federalist and the separatist points of view. And while we are on the subject, I would like to know how the minister feels about the present policy of the corporation, which consists of refusing consistently to broadcast the publicity messages of the pro-Canada movement? Finally, if the minister has any courage, maybe he could tell us whether he intends to direct the corporation to play a more positive role in the referendum debate.

[English]

Hon. David MacDonald (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the CBC functions as an independent agency responsible to