

Oral Questions
AGRICULTURE

SOYBEANS—DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES
OFFICIALS—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE
SUPPLIES FOR CANADIAN MILLS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is a supplementary on soybeans and it is directed to the Minister of Agriculture. Has he been in contact with United States officials over the weekend and, second, can he now assure or give a guarantee to Canadian mills that they will have an adequate supply of soybeans?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, our officials have been in contact as late as today with United States officials. As the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has stated, the final figures are not available at this time but they should be shortly, today or tomorrow, so that we will know exactly what our needs may be and what the United States intends to do with long time Canadian customers of the United States for this product.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

ALLEGED HARASSMENT OF PASSENGERS AT AIRPORTS—
REQUEST FOR STATEMENT ON AUTHORIZATION FOR
ACTIONS

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General who is absent from the House today. However, I understand from his office that the Minister of National Health and Welfare will answer my question. In the light of the fact that there have been numerous reports of ground transport harassment by RCMP personnel at both the Toronto airport terminals, and because the RCMP have in fact been causing a great deal of inconvenience to many passengers at the airport, could the minister advise the House what regulations the RCMP are supposed to be enforcing regarding the airport limousine concession, as well as the loading and unloading of passengers and luggage? Who, in fact, is responsible for these regulations being implemented—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question asked in those terms—again I suggest to hon. members—should be placed on the order paper. If there is urgency about the matter, possibly the question should be asked at the time of adjournment in the usual way. If there is urgency to the extent that, in the opinion of the hon. member or of the minister, a reply should be given now, certainly I have no objection. If the minister would like to reply briefly, he will be recognized for the purpose.

Mr. Jelinek: May I conclude the question by asking the minister to let the House know when we can expect changes to take place so that passengers will not have to worry about the police as well as the existing terminal two monster.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Speaker.]

[Translation]

HARBOURS

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF SUPER TANKER PORT ON
ST. LAWRENCE—DISCUSSIONS WITH QUEBEC TO AVOID
WATER POLLUTION

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

In view of the decision made by the Quebec government to promote the construction of a supertanker port, could the minister tell the House whether he had any discussions with the Quebec government about this project as well as about the steps to be taken in an attempt to solve the water pollution problem?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the latter part of the question, it would be more properly directed to the Minister of the Environment. On the broad question of whether I have had discussions with regard to port development as part of regional economic expansion in the province of Quebec, the answer is yes. This is one of the subjects now being discussed and to which I referred earlier.

[Translation]

Mr. Allard: Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question to the Minister of the Environment.

Can he say whether the Canadian government has set up any program with a view to protecting the shores of the St. Lawrence River and Gulf, in case the Quebec government project would materialize and supertankers would sail along our shores?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will realize that the question put in such terms is hypothetical.

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[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

INQUIRY AS TO RECEIPT OF REPORT OF ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON RATES, BENEFITS AND COVERAGE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In the light of the fact that the Unemployment Insurance Act makes it mandatory for the advisory committee to review the Unemployment Insurance Act with respect to rates, coverage and benefits, after which time it is supposed to file a report with the Governor in Council within six months following the end of the year, I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary whether in fact this report has been filed. If so, when does the minister intend to table it in the House, and if he has not received it as yet would he advise us why he has not?

Mr. Mark MacGuigan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I shall have to take notice of the question, but I would say that the advisory committee did meet on Friday.