

TRANSPORT

NEWFOUNDLAND—COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO RESTORE RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that the transport committee, under the distinguished chairmanship of the hon. member for Crowfoot, by an all-party vote last night recommended that the government restore rail passenger service in Newfoundland, at the instigation of my colleague the hon. member for St. John's West, does the minister propose to take the necessary action to implement this all-party recommendation?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister might reply to the question, but the hon. member for St. John's East knows it is irregular to refer to a decision of a committee or to the proceedings of a committee until a report has been made. Perhaps the minister might be allowed to reply briefly to the hon. member's question which I believe is irregular.

An hon. Member: Say yes, Jean.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, I would rephrase the question and, as a prelude, suggest to the minister that he confer with the distinguished chairman of the committee to find out what went on last night. Is the minister now prepared to expedite a study, which was commissioned by the department, into all phases of ground transportation in Newfoundland; and if that study has been completed, when will the minister report its findings to the House?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the physical location of the chairman of the committee has nothing to do with my relationship with him. Although I do not know exactly what the committee decided last night, there is no doubt that we will have to study, and ask the CTC to study, the restoration of railway service in Newfoundland.

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FINANCE

ROYAL BANK OF CANADA—INCENTIVE TO PROSPECTIVE BORROWERS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the bribe of \$25 offered by the Royal Bank of Canada to prospective borrowers of \$1,000 or more, which was condemned by the Consumers' Association of Canada, can the minister tell the House whether he has investigated this practice and, if so, can he report to the House?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member for Trinity raised that point a day or so ago. I relayed the position to the bank.

Mr. Nystrom: Would the minister personally urge the Royal Bank of Canada to stop this irresponsible action?

Oral Questions

Would he make a recommendation to the bank on behalf of the government?

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STATUTORY HOLIDAYS

CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HOLIDAY ON DAY OTHER THAN SUNDAY

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Secretary of State. In view of the fact that the most historic holiday we have in Canada, July 1, falls on Sunday this year, and the statute states it must be celebrated on the day on which it falls, can the minister tell the House and Canada on what day the holiday will be celebrated?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the act also provides that when the day is a Sunday the celebration will take place on the following Monday.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

MARINE RESOURCES—GOVERNMENT POSITION AT NEXT LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs or to the Minister of the Environment, I am not sure which. Perhaps the minister responsible will answer. In view of the importance of the next Law of the Sea Conference, which will determine for many years into the future the distribution of our marine resources as well as the development of the mineral and petroleum resources on our continental shelf, is it the intention of the government to make a statement on motions in this House, when convenient, so that members will be aware of the stand to be taken by Canada on this important matter?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I think I can undertake on behalf of my colleague and myself to make such a statement, but it is for consideration whether it might not be more useful to give it in one of the standing committees. In any event, we would be prepared to make a statement.

[Translation]

VIET NAM—DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF ICSS RESPECTING RECENT INCIDENTS

Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Following the incidents which took place recently in Viet Nam, could the minister tell this House whether he has had contacts, through diplomatic channels or otherwise, with representatives of Poland, Hungary and Indonesia, and if so, what have been the reactions of these countries?