

Oral Questions

there is any legal commitment to pay \$16 million or any other amount to Lockheed? Will he say whether the government has sought legal advice, and will he personally take the initiative to see that Lockheed is taken to court to recover the amounts which have been paid?

● (1450)

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker, that is not the case. If there is any legal commitment to pay \$16 million or \$14 million, whatever the figure is, it is because on December 2, the government in order to keep the option open, told Lockheed to begin the work and that we would be liable for any work Lockheed did if the contract were not finally signed.

Mr. Bawden: They reneged on their verbal agreement.

Mr. Trudeau: If the hon. gentleman wants to hear my answer, perhaps he should stop shouting. If he wants to ask a supplementary, I will gladly sit down and then answer.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Well, I think I am finished.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

REGIONAL PRODUCERS' REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION— GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Secretary of State. Over two weeks ago the president of the CBC went to Vancouver to meet with an unofficial group known as the Committee of 100 to discuss their concern about the lack of regional involvement in production. Two weeks later the CBC television producers felt compelled to make a public call for a royal commission on the subject. Can the Secretary of State inform the House of any of the substance of the president's discussion and why the producers across Canada had to resort to this public call for a royal commission?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I was not present when the president of the corporation met with that committee. I myself met with some members of the committee two weeks after his meeting. There is a problem which arises out of the success of our regionalization.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Faulkner: That may appear paradoxical, but I would like to explain it. The fact is that we now have in Vancouver a facility for production which we never had before. We will be developing one in Regina which really did not exist before. Now there is a degree of tension, obviously, between the producers in a place like Vancouver, who would like to have much greater autonomy over program production than they had before, and I think this is a problem the president of the corporation is looking at

[Mr. Bawden.]

seriously. It is one I am concerned about, but I am sure that problem would not be resolved by a royal commission.

Mr. Friesen: Would the minister push his luck a little and try to be even more successful by looking on decentralization as more than just putting buildings across the country and allowing some individual decision making across the country? Would he push his luck and take care of that matter before he is shuffled to the oblivion of the government backbenches this summer?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte.

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FISHERIES

POSSIBILITY OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS CONCERNING MARKETING AND PROCESSING—SUGGESTED COMMITTEE MEETING TO INFORM MEMBERS

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, recently the Minister of State (Fisheries) has been involved in negotiations of an international nature in respect of fishing quotas and marketing. Would the minister advise the House whether any contracts have been entered into for the marketing of fish which might be caught in Canada and be surplus to the processing capacity in the area in which the fish are caught?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I do not know if a contract proposal has been signed. I have been out of touch because I have been travelling in the fisheries areas in Newfoundland and Îles de la Madeleine over the past few days. I know it was one of the options which was being considered. The price offered for herring in one part of the east coast, the Bay of Fundy, which was mainly used for fish meal, was so low that we looked at alternative markets, and I know the possibility of some sales over the side for a part of that quota was one of the options considered. I have no firm knowledge at the moment whether a possible contract has been finalized, but certainly it necessitates a permit to be issued by the minister responsible, and I have not yet issued such a permit.

Mr. McCain: In view of the negotiations and considerations which have taken place in all respects with regard to the fishing industry, would the minister call or arrange to have called a meeting of the Fisheries Committee which he would attend and advise the members of that committee as to just what has been accomplished as well as what can be expected from future negotiations, which we understand are to take place?

Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent): I certainly have no objection to informing hon. members either in the forum of the committee or in other ways. I understand there was a full session on this very issue, mainly with regard to the Bay of Fundy herring, but what information I have is obviously available, and I will make it available to the hon. member.