

Inquiries of the Ministry

feasibility and the desirability of building a link between the two major railways' main lines west of Kamloops or Lillooet, or some other suitable location, and the Great Eastern railway line?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I can only say, speaking broadly, that we are concerned about ensuring that there are adequate rail facilities between prairie points and the coast for all our products, and that this is a matter that is going to concern us very much in the time ahead.

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FISHERIES**ALLEGED INCIDENT WITH FOREIGN VESSEL—REQUEST FOR INCREASED NAVAL AND AIR SURVEILLANCE**

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the government been able to determine which foreign national was responsible for the incident of intimidation that occurred off the east coast of Canada earlier this week, and have any charges been laid or statements been made by the minister's department? More importantly, has the government decided to step up naval and air surveillance along our coast line in order to give our ships more protection?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, our fisheries service officers are investigating the incident and will be making a report shortly.

Mr. Lundrigan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the minister will answer my second question, which is the more important, regarding giving our own Canadian ships more protection from this kind of happening or event by stepping up naval presence off our coast, and especially air surveillance.

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, Canada has not been noted for using gunboat diplomacy far out at sea.

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GRAIN**ACTION AGAINST DEFAULTERS ON REPAYMENT OF CASH ADVANCES—REQUEST THAT PENALTIES BE DROPPED**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. In view of the action of certain grain producers who took cash advances in the 1969-70 and 1970-71 crop years and who are now considered in default, though they have scrupulously filled their quotas as space became available, does the minister intend to have charges and any penalties dropped in cases where the producer has fulfilled his contract?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding from discussions with the commissioners of the Canadian Wheat Board that they do not propose to exact any penalties from anyone who in fact has been delivering grain on quotas as they opened. They will do so

[Mr. Burton.]

only in cases where there has been a clear default in the delivery of grain.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**STABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND—CANADIAN ROLE**

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of External Affairs.

Would the minister indicate whether Canada has a part to play in the European Economic Community in connection with the stability of the International Monetary Fund? If so, what is Canada's attitude to the policy of the European Economic Community?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there has been very close liaison between the Minister of Finance here and the financial authorities in the European Common Market. We are both striving for stability, security and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker: We have just about reached the end of the question period but we might have one or two more questions.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY**PULP AND PAPER—GOVERNMENT ACTION IN GIVING AID**

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Some time ago the minister advised the House he was having ongoing discussions with the pulp and paper associations. I wonder whether he is now prepared to give the House a report on what conclusions they came to in regard to the problems facing the industry and the help that the government will give.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, some officers of this industrial group are waiting for me and other ministers at this moment in another room of this building.

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FINANCE**REQUEST THAT CHARTERED BANKS LOWER INTEREST RATES IN VIEW OF INCREASED PROFITS**

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the increase in net profit earned by the chartered banks of Canada during the previous two years, and in view of the most recent increase of 41 per cent in operating profits for the first quarter of the chartered banks' fiscal year, can the Minister of Finance say whether he and the Governor of the Bank of Canada are