

AVAILABILITY OF CANADIAN EXPERTISE TO UNITED STATES
COASTGUARD

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): In view of the fact that Mr. Russell Train, the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, describes the spill as a potential catastrophe of major proportions, is a Canadian team on site now and, in view of our experience resulting from the *Arrow* disaster of a few years ago, have we made our expertise, our personnel and equipment available to the U.S. coastguard oil strike unit?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, there has been close communication between our officials and the United States officials since the very beginning of the accident. The offer of assistance has been made.

DEPARTMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS CONSTRUCTION OF
PIPELINE FROM KITIMAT, BRITISH COLUMBIA TO ALBERTA

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of the Environment arising out of this unfortunate tragedy. Will the minister advise the House what position the Department of the Environment is taking with regard to the application of the consortium that wishes to build an oil pipeline commencing at Kitimat on the British Columbia west coast and through to the province of Alberta?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, we have indicated to the National Energy Board, as it is our duty to do, that all the environmental assessments we have will be at their disposal. I might say I view that situation with considerable skepticism.

● (1440)

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES OF CONSEQUENCES OF OIL TANKERS
OPERATING NEAR KITIMAT, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Can the minister tell the House whether a full environmental study has been carried out with regard to the possible consequences of oil tankers entering the dangerous waters opposite Kitimat? If such a study has been conducted, is the minister prepared to make the results public?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): No full environmental study has been done yet.

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SUPPLY AND SERVICES

REQUEST THAT CHEQUES BE DELIVERED TO VETERINARIANS
BEFORE END OF YEAR

Mr. C. Douglas (Bruce-Grey): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services and it has to do with cheques promised to veterinarians of the Health of Animals Branch. It appears some of these cheques have been

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delivered but that others have not. Is the minister aware of the consequences which late delivery will mean to members of this group in the context of their income tax returns? I understand that some of the cheques may not be delivered until January 3 or January 6. Will every effort be made by the department to ensure that all the veterinarians affected by the agreement will receive the promised remuneration in the 1976 tax year—either have them postmarked prior to midnight, December 31, 1976, or delivered prior to December 31?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Following consultations with the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of National Health and Welfare, Mr. Speaker, we have decided to send veterinarians their cheques for up to \$1,000 before Christmas or by December 31, 1976 at the latest.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DEATH OF ANNA AQUASH IN UNITED
STATES—POSSIBILITY OF COMPENSATION FOR CHILDREN

Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It has reference to the mysterious death of Anna Mae Aquash in the United States. I first raised this question on May 14 and again on November 15. Does the minister have anything more to report on this matter? Further, will the children be receiving any compensation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I have some information which has been conveyed to us by the United States authorities. I was planning to reply to the hon. member's letter to me on the same subject of December 16. The documentation provided by the United States conveys information from the FBI on its investigation into the death of the woman in question. I can make it available to the hon. member and would be prepared to table it. However, we have just received it and I do not have a French translation. I would be glad to let the hon. member see it, and perhaps table it subsequently with the agreement of the House.

Mr. Firth: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister did not answer the second part of the question. Will the children be receiving compensation of any kind?

Mr. Jamieson: I apologize to the hon. member. In looking over this document, which is to the best of my knowledge the only document received from the United States authorities, I find there is no reference to compensation. But I shall be glad to make further inquiries and advise the hon. member.