

Oral Questions

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Perhaps I can reply on behalf of my colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I would simply confirm his viewpoint and mine, as expressed by the hon. gentleman, that the United States anti-trust administration should in no sense seek to export its anti-trust law into Canada and that an attempt to do so will be an unacceptable course of action. In this context, the government of Canada recently had an opportunity to make its views known in Washington, and I would be glad to confirm with the Secretary of State for External Affairs that he has been in communication with Washington as well in relation to uranium.

* * *

AIR TRANSPORT**SUGGESTED DENIAL OF LANDING RIGHTS TO AIRCRAFT OF COUNTRIES HARBOURING AIRCRAFT HIJACKERS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the government House leader in his capacity as Acting Prime Minister. It concerns the recent hijacking incident in Uganda. Can he advise us whether the government is now giving consideration to imposing sanctions against Uganda or, for that matter, against any other country which shelters and assists hijackers? I am particularly interested in ascertaining whether this country is considering the cancellation of landing rights to governments such as Uganda so that the Canadian people can do something more than express pious statements at the United Nations on this subject.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): The hon. gentleman will recall that Canada took the lead in the international civil aviation organisation and at the United Nations in trying to get a universal rule which meant there would be no harbouring of aircraft hijackers. Unfortunately, the rest of the world did not agree with our position. We have not, however, felt it desirable to apply the kind of sanction the hon. member has mentioned. I would remind him that far more than Uganda is involved; a great many countries in the world are involved. It is our view, however, that as a result of the tragic events which took place in Uganda there will be some change in world opinion in favour of our approach.

Mr. Leggatt: I thank the hon. gentleman for another pious statement on the subject. I would draw attention to the importance of providing leadership rather than waiting for the rest of the world. There are two other countries closely concerned: Libya continues to violate world opinion in this area and so does Algeria. I am asking the minister whether consideration is being given to acting alone so that Canada can show some leadership instead of waiting for some international agreement, which at present seems far from likely, or at least acting in concert with other like-minded nations.

Mr. Sharp: We did explore the possibility of acting in concert with other like-minded countries and we did not receive support.

[Mr. Gray.]

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**ALLEGED PROPOSAL FOR DECENTRALIZATION—REQUEST FOR DETAILS**

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. Can he confirm reports appearing in the press today that in a fortnight the President of the Treasury Board will be presenting to cabinet a longer list with a projection in stages of how a thorough-going decentralization of the Public Service by department and agency will be carried out, the purpose being to decentralize the larger agencies in Ottawa? Can the minister confirm that report and give us some details as to the phasing of such a program?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I neither confirm nor deny reports about what is going on in cabinet.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): In the event that at some time the minister and his colleagues are presented with a report recommending decentralization under a program which is really, as outlined by the President of the Treasury Board, intended basically for the purpose of job creation—something which is, in principle, not an unlaudable motive—will the hon. gentleman assure the House that when considering such a report it would be in the mind of the government that it ought not in all cases to be creating yet another level of bureaucracy through which action would need to be taken by the public and that if this is basically a regional employment scheme special attention should be paid to the problems of those public servants who are employed in agencies in the National Capital and elsewhere which are to be transferred and who are remaining here? There is a great deal of concern in the public service not only with respect to the move but with respect to what will happen to those who choose not to move.

Mr. Sharp: The government is motivated in its decentralization program not only by considerations of employment but by the principle that it is desirable to have federal representation throughout the country as distributed as extensively as possible. That is one of the main reasons for considering, as we have, the question of decentralization and taking some steps in that direction. I can assure the hon. member that when it does consider these moves the government is very conscious of problems which may be created here in Ottawa.

* * *

● (1140)

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**GARRISON DIVERSION—INCLUSION OF FLOOD CONTROL ON SOURIS RIVER IN INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION STUDY**

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, I had a question for the Minister of the Environment but in his absence perhaps the parliamentary secretary would answer. In view of the continuing controversy over the Garrison diversion project, would the hon. gentleman give an up to date report of the IJC study on the matter,