

Oral Questions

CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY-OWNED CANADIAN FOOTBALL TEAMS TO PREVENT ENTRY OF WORLD FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of representations that I believe have been made to the minister from community-owned football teams in Canada and in light of the statement he made subsequent to that, can the minister advise if he is presently consulting further with community-owned professional football teams in Canada to obtain their views as to what methods the government can and should take to prevent the World Football League from operating in Canada?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, obviously the government will have to accept its own responsibilities in that respect and make its own decisions in what we consider to be the national interest. I am in consultation with the president of the Canadian Football League who happens to be a gentleman from Edmonton, Alberta, and represents a team that is community-owned.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LEAKAGE OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION—ACTION TAKEN AGAINST PERSON RESPONSIBLE

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, as long ago as November 16 I inquired of the Secretary of State for External Affairs what action he had taken following the disclosure on November 5 in the House that classified information had been made available improperly to a member of the House. I should like to ask the minister now whether there has been a dismissal from the Department of External Affairs or CIDA following this unusual performance?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there has been a resignation.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): My supplementary question is to ask the minister whether he will provide reasons to the House why a resignation was accepted rather than charges being pressed because a member of the public service failed to honour his word under his Oath of Secrecy?

Mr. Sharp: I think that some of the reasons will be fairly clear. We did not consider that it was necessary to dismiss this official or to take action against him, since he was prepared to resign. So that there would not be an unnecessary blot upon his character in looking for another job. We accepted this way out which I think is the "liberal" way.

Mr. Speaker: There are three or four minutes left before the end of the question period. If the hon. member has a brief supplementary question he might ask it, following which I will see the hon. member for Rimouski.

[Mr. Lalonde.]

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): My brief supplementary is to ask the minister whether he is satisfied that this form of dealing with the matter will preserve the integrity and usefulness of the Canadian foreign service?

Mr. Sharp: The Canadian foreign service was not involved in this particular case, and I am satisfied that we took the right action under the existing circumstances. I can imagine other circumstances under which a different kind of action would have been appropriate.

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[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

MEASURES TO CONTROL FOOD PRODUCT PROFITEERS

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

In view of the impact of sugar prices on many food commodities, would the hon. minister inform the House of the measures he intends to take to put profiteers to reason?

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I had some difficulty in hearing the hon. member's question and consequently I will take it as notice.

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[English]

FISHERIES

SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF REGULATIONS RESPECTING QUOTAS AND SEIZURE OF CATCHES IN LIGHT OF HARDSHIPS

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the hardships imposed on Canadian fishermen because of the implementation of an order in council on January 15, 1974, is it the minister's intention to amend the regulations as they apply to Canadian fishing quotas and especially as these regulations apply to the seizure of fishermen's catches?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the answer essentially is no. I might also point out to the hon. member that the quantity of fish taken was roughly the same last year as in 1972 and incomes were up about one-third.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member will be recognized for a supplementary, followed by the hon. member for Medicine Hat.

Mr. Crouse: Fishermen are required by law to handle the catch when it is landed on deck. So I ask the minister, what steps is he planning to take to protect the rights of all individual fishermen working on the deck of a dragger since these fishermen have no authority whatsoever to determine the area in which the captain decides to carry out fishing operations?