

TRANSPORT

SHIPPING ON WEST COAST—POSSIBILITY OF INQUIRY AND
SUBSIDY TO RIVTOW

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the recent statement of Mr. Cosulich of Rivtow Straits that he can no longer operate without a subsidy, with reference to west coast shipping, and in view of the fact that the minister himself has promised an inquiry into the chaos that was created by his intervention on the west coast, can the minister now enlighten the House whether (a) there will be an inquiry, and (b) whether he is prepared to provide a subsidy to Rivtow Straits similar to the kind of subsidy Northland Shipping previously enjoyed?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the statement to which the hon. member refers. Any question of a commission of inquiry would have to await completion of certain discussions which are going on between ourselves and the government of British Columbia. I should say to the hon. member though, that the form of subsidy which had been given to Northland, I trust, will not be thought of as being reintroduced by anyone. It encouraged really the wrong form of transportation where a far more cost effective form was available, one which in the very short run would be giving far better service to passengers.

Mr. Brisco: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister refers to "far better service". I wonder whether he is referring to past service or future service? I hope he is not referring to present service. Is he prepared to answer that?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member for Victoria.

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CROWN ASSETS DISPOSAL CORPORATION

POSSIBILITY OF SALE OF SUBMARINE "RAINBOW"

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. Would he inform the House whether Crown Assets Disposal Corporation are on the point of selling the submarine H.M.C.S. *Rainbow* to a United States company for something less than a quarter of a million dollars?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): I will inquire, Mr. Speaker, and I will give an answer to the hon. member.

Oral Questions

[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

LACK OF SUBMARINES ON WEST COAST—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): A supplementary question for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the fact that the Canadian navy on the west coast has two anti-submarine squadrons and no submarine to practice on but must borrow United States submarines for practice, has the minister thought of reactivating the *Rainbow* or of bidding on the sale of it, or indeed replacing it with a new submarine?

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we thought of it and discarded the idea. One of our submarines, the *Ojibway*, is on the west coast now working with the *Athabaskan* and the destroyer fleet in an anti-submarine role. We do share these facilities with our American allies, as I believe the hon. member knows, and also other facilities in this range. There is a reciprocal arrangement which seems to be working out very well and in our view there is no justification for reactivating the *Rainbow*.

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STATISTICS CANADA

ALLEGATION JOB VACANCY FIGURES MISLEADING—
GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the minister of manpower and remind him of that interesting exchange which we had on Friday regarding the job vacancy figures published by Stat-Can. I remind him that he said in the House that the statistics were misleading. Then, he ran from the House, gave a press interview and said that they were useless and needed to be looked at with a jaundiced eye. Does the minister not agree that these are extremely serious charges? Has he brought this particular matter to the attention of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce who answers for Statistics Canada? Surely, we cannot continue the publication of statistics the minister does not believe.

● (1500)

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, there is no way I could run from the House; my briefcase is too heavy for me to do that. I was commenting on the vacancy rate and the use or misuse which has been made of those figures. For example—and I had this in mind—Canada manpower centres place about one million people a year. We participate in filling between 25 per cent and 35 per cent of all vacancies. At the end of any given month some 100,000 vacant jobs are available, just through CMCs. That was my point, and to take a narrow interpretation does not do a service to the people looking for jobs.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. That was a lot of nonsense. The minister indicated in no uncertain terms that job vacancy statistics as published by