

AIRPORTS

PICKERING—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF MINISTER'S STATEMENT CONCERNING OPPOSITION TO PROJECT

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and concerns his statement of last Friday in which he said that he would stop construction of Pickering Airport if all the people of Toronto oppose its construction. Can the minister explain what this means? Are all men, women and children to make known their opposition, or must the majority of people as well as their local governments oppose it? What exactly did he mean? At the same time, can the minister advise the House why he has not stood behind his statement of February 21, when he said that he would revise the whole thing in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the people?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

IMPRISONMENT OF MISSIONARIES NORMAN AND JOAN JOHNSON IN VIET NAM—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT ON EFFORTS TO OBTAIN RELEASE

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As it is now four months since Canadian missionaries Norman and Joan Johnson were taken captive in South Viet Nam, and two months since the government finally made representations on their behalf to the PRG in Paris, can the minister advise of any progress in securing the release of these Canadians who are being held contrary to all the promises of the Communist forces?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the most recent information I have is that the PRG representatives have assured us that the safety of all such persons was being secured and that we would be given information if and when a release could be guaranteed. We have not had that further information and I will look into the matter at the first opportunity.

Mr. O'Sullivan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. As these same forces also gave the assurance that Canadians would be released as soon as they were identified and that no civilians who had not taken part in military action would ever be held captive, can the minister say what the Department of External Affairs is doing to secure the release of Canadians who have been held captive for four months?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is aware that we have been making representations to the authorities on the subject, and that is the limit of our ability, unless he would want us to take some other action in Viet Nam.

Oral Questions

[Translation]

BROADCASTING

DATE OF DECISION ON CHANNEL 10, VANCOUVER

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Communications.

On May 30 last, I put a question to the Minister concerning Channel 10 in Vancouver. The minister then told me that he would find out if the commission was in a position to set a date by which it would reach a decision. The applicants must have spent a consideration amount of money for their application, and if the commission persists in delaying its answer, those expenses could increase by \$1 million. Can the minister give us any information on this matter?

[English]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Minister of Communications): Mr. Speaker, I understand the concern of the hon. member. The allocation of Channel 10 in the Vancouver area is a serious matter and that is probably why the CRTC has deliberated so long. I told the hon. member when he first expressed this concern, that I would make representations to the CRTC and ask them to expedite as much as possible the release of the decision. They told me that this is exactly what they are doing. They find the problem complex and want to make the most adequate decision they can.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED REFINERY AT EASTPORT, MAINE—USE OF CANADIAN WATERS BY TANKERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister advise the House of Canada's position on the construction of the refinery at Eastport, Maine, and if the department has communicated with the United States about the use of Canadian waters by heavy tankers transporting the crude oil to this refinery? Also, has the United States government communicated with the minister's department the intentions of the Pittson Company relating to the construction of this refinery?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend knows, the Canadian government has consistently opposed the movement of carriers through Head Harbour passage, because of the environmental risks involved. The Maine environmental board, in its most recent decision, gave permission to the Pittson company to go ahead with the refinery, subject to certain conditions, which included securing permission from the Canadian authorities for transit for carriers carrying these products. We have not altered our position on the point. Since that decision by the Maine environmental board, no further formal representations have been made to us by the government of the United States. At present we are not sure whether the State Department will espouse the cause of the Pittson