

*Inquiries of the Ministry***CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY****PROJECTED SECOND VOYAGE BY "MANHATTAN" THROUGH NORTHWEST PASSAGE**

Mr. W. B. Nesbitt (Oxford): I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Has he or his department received notice of a projected voyage by the *Manhattan* some time during the months of April or May?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that my department has received such a request.

[English]

Mr. Thomas M. Bell (Saint John-Lancaster): A supplementary on this subject, and further to a question on February 2 which I have just been able to locate. May I ask the Prime Minister whether the Canadian government has been requested to agree to a second trip by the *Manhattan*, as was done in the case of the first voyage?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have not read the reference which the hon. member just mentioned but my recollection is that the Secretary of State for External Affairs said that no request had been made concerning any such voyage.

[Later:]

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): This is a supplementary question to the Prime Minister in connection with a question asked a few moments ago. Will the government of Canada permit the *Manhattan* to make any voyage through these northern waters without the permission of the Canadian government being granted?

Mr. Trudeau: Thanks to the reference which was given in the preceding question, I have the answer given by the minister. If the answer is correct, and I think it is, this question is hypothetical. The reference also answers the first question which was addressed to me. The minister said, as reported on page 3081 of *Hansard*:

With regard to the specific question whether the U.S. government has asked us about a second trip of the *Manhattan*, I think I made it clear in my previous answer that I did not know whether the *Manhattan* was to make another trip. Indeed, I do not know also whether the United States government would in fact make such inquiries. It is the *Manhattan* itself which would be making the voyage, not the U.S. government.

[Mr. Haidasz.]

Mr. Diefenbaker: Mr. Speaker, there is nothing hypothetical about the subject of Canadian sovereignty in the north. My question to the Prime Minister is simply this: Will the government of Canada insist that there shall be no such voyage without the permission of the Canadian government?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, we might insist that my grandmother should wear wheels, but it is still hypothetical.

POLLUTION**USE OF CONTINGENCY PLANS IN DEALING WITH OIL FROM WRECKED TANKER "ARROW"**

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, on January 14, 1970 the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry indicated that contingency plans for dealing with the adverse affects of oil pollution had been developed. My question to the minister or his Parliamentary Secretary today is: were those contingency plans used in the case of the recent oil spill from the tanker *Arrow*, and how successful have they been in the opinion of the department?

Mr. E. F. Whelan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): I am not sure whether they were or not; I would have to check. I know they are doing everything humanly possible to check this pollution, and I imagine they would have used those measures.

[Later:]

Mr. Harding: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary that relates to my original question. Are copies of these contingency plans available and, if so, where can they be obtained?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

THE MINISTRY**DELAY IN REPLYING TO CORRESPONDENCE FROM MEMBERS**

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In view of the difficulty being faced by private members who are experiencing agonizing delays of up to two months in receiving replies from his ministers to very straightforward requests for information, does the Prime Minister feel that this inefficiency is in any way related to the imposition of the austerity program upon the civil service, and would the Prime Minister be good enough to look into the matter on our behalf?