

Routine Proceedings

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): A list of NAFTA "third party" supporters does not exist. However, what does exist is a computer list of public statements on NAFTA and/or trade which have been gathered from the press. Indeed, I myself am included in this list.

The list tabled November 23, 1992 under Question No. 409, assists us in both identifying public information needs and co-ordinating our trade communications. David Helwig, a journalist from St. Thomas, Ontario, writing in the *Toronto Star* (September 19, 1992) stated that: "the computer disk lists 200 letters to newspaper editors and articles judged to be favourable or neutral toward the NAFTA, compared to only 79 negative".

Question No. 412—Mr. Angus:

Does the government, under the Department of National Defence, own and operate a vessel called HMCS *Protecteur* and, if so, (a) has the HMCS *Protecteur* visited ports of call or travelled through inland waterways west of the Welland Canal (b) what were the dates of any such passage through the Welland Canal (c) what were the problems associated with HMCS *Protecteur* moving through the Welland Canal system?

Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of National Defence): The Department of National Defence owns and operates a vessel called HMCS *Protecteur*.

a) HMCS *Protecteur* has not transited through the Welland Canal system and has therefore not visited any ports of call west of the canal.

b) See a).

c) Passage of HMCS *Protecteur* through the Welland Canal system was regarded as a safety risk to both the ship and the locks themselves owing to the very narrow clearances between the vessel and the canal walls.

[English]

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, I would ask that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

[Translation]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

[English]

Mr. Edwards: I appreciate my friend from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell asking about questions Nos. 406 and 407. I can assure him that the response to question No. 406 is in the final stages of preparation, and that the response to question No. 407 should be ready shortly. I have been chasing this one for my friend and I will give it a little more diligence and see what we can produce for him.

Mr. Boudria: Thank you.

Mr. Duhamel: I believe that my colleague, the parliamentary secretary, will remember that it was almost a year ago that I asked a question that went somewhat as follows: How many dollars in taxes have been collected from the goods and services tax and which amounts, if any, of that have been given toward the deficit and the debt. To my knowledge that has not yet been answered. Apparently I am not in error. About three weeks ago I asked again in this House when this question would be answered. Two weeks ago I asked once again. I gave my colleague one week's rest so that he could be absolutely certain to get me those answers. As he can well appreciate, constituents are really concerned about the goods and services tax money and where it is going.

I wonder if we can get a commitment today that this series of questions will be answered by the end of the week before we recess.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend from St. Boniface well knows, the question has been answered in a different way. Nonetheless, he deserves a response to his questions.

He will recall that on Wednesday last the Minister of Finance confirmed what Canadians all happily know and that is that every net nickel raised by the goods and services tax goes to debt and deficit reduction by law.

However I can tell my friend that his prodding and my inquiries have resulted in this file moving upward and that it is in sight. I think we can promise that there will be something, I hesitate to say a specific day, but very, very soon.