

Oral Questions

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

REFERENCE TO SLAUGHTERING OF CALVES

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Last night, on a television news program, we were shown scenes of the slaughtering of animals that took place in Saint-Bruno in the Lac Saint-Jean area, in a civilized country, which shows that our revered economic system is provoking general indignation. To facilitate tonight's debate, may I ask the Minister of Agriculture, whether in his opinion—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I repeat the decision I have already rendered in that regard. Since we are going to discuss the problem tonight, it is not permitted to raise the subject now during the question period.

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[English]

PENITENTIARIES

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL—PARTICIPATION OF FIVE ESCAPEES IN VIOLENT CRIMES—RESPONSIBILITY FOR ESCAPE

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. Can the minister advise the House whether the five inmates in whom he took such a special interest as to issue special instructions and who proceeded to escape were, in their short period at large, involved in gang land killings in Montreal, bank robberies and armed robberies involving a sizeable quantity of cigarettes?

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I am advised that this morning three of those individuals were involved in a bank robbery. One of them, Mercier, was shot and is seriously injured. Frappier was shot and is in critical condition. One of the others escaped in the shoot-out. I am awaiting a further report.

Mr. O'Sullivan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say if he has determined who was negligent in the escape and has he taken action concerning this negligence?

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, I am expecting a full report tomorrow.

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TRANSPORT

INCREASING CANADA'S SHARE OF MARITIME TRAFFIC UNDER UNITED NATIONS ACCORD—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and/or his distinguished colleague next to him, the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It arises out of the conference last April at which 72 nations ratified or agreed in general to the principle of 40-40-20 with respect to the

[Mr. Richardson.]

shipment of goods and commodities in and out of various countries. Canada at that time abstained from voting on the resolution, which is now in the process of ratification. In the light of Canada's abstention and in the light of the tremendous advantage to Canada of raising its share with regard to Maritime borne traffic from one per cent to 40 per cent, will the minister indicate whether Canada intends to ratify this protocol or accord. If so, when may we expect an announcement from the minister?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Department of External Affairs deals with these matters. I will be happy to give an answer tomorrow. Our people are involved in negotiations and tomorrow I will probably be in a position to tell the hon. member exactly where we stand.

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INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—POSSIBLE CLOSING OF FORD PLANT AT TALBOTVILLE—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the recent announcement by Mr. Anthony Fredo, a spokesman for Ford of Canada Limited, to the effect that if sales of new cars continue to decline at the present rate, the Talbotville small car assembly plant will be forced to close the week of November 25, will the minister immediately communicate with officials in the automobile industry and his American counterparts in an effort to avoid this very serious situation from happening? I remind the minister that over 3,000 jobs are at stake.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about the effects on the automobile industry of the downturn of consumption in the United States. I have on a fairly regular basis met with the presidents of Canadian automobile manufacturing companies. I will again be meeting with the president of one of the major companies within a day or two with regard to the specific situation to which the hon. member has referred. I have been informed that particular company is balancing its production and the difficulties in Canada should be of a short-term duration.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Tom Cossitt (Leeds): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Have the minister's parliamentary or ministerial duties been extended to include deciding which government members of parliament will be permitted to contest the next election?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.