

*Oral Questions*

with voluntary guidelines as a means of slowing down inflation?

**Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton):** We are still going through the exploratory stage. I want this process to evolve in a way that is equitable for all sides.

**Mr. Hees:** You say nothing in such an attractive way.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH UNITED STATES  
CONCERNING AGREEMENT ON RESOURCES ON CONTINENTAL  
SHELF

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the shortage of energy supplies and the need to open up off-shore oil and gas reserves, is it the Minister's intention to hold special talks with his counterpart in the United States in order to establish ownership or a workable agreement covering any resources which may exist on Georges Bank, or the continental shelf off the coast of Nova Scotia which is a grey area, where ownership is presently claimed by both Canada and the United States?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have not planned any such talks.

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**TRANSPORT**

DESJARDINS REPORT—DATE OF DECISION ON  
IMPLEMENTATION—POSSIBLE CHANGE IN STATUS OF  
PILOTAGE AUTHORITY

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** I have a brief question for the Minister of Transport relating to the Desjardins report on pilotage. I should like to ask the hon. gentleman whether he has forgotten that on October 10, 1974, he had signed an order approving the Desjardins report when on October 17 in committee and later in the House he indicated that a final decision had not been reached. I should like to ask him at the same time if he has any immediate plans to change the almost independently the authority and status of the pilotage authority.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I have refrained until now from answering the false and slanderous publicity the hon. member for Central Nova has given to remarks made in committee. I merely say that there is no contradiction between what I said on October 10 and what I said a little later before the committee. As I said on October 10, there are three documents involved in this statement: the press release, the regulations, and the report itself. Well, I said on October 10 that I thought I had signed the press release. This is

[Mr. Hees.]

perfectly clear, Mr. Speaker, since my reply was the following:

[*English*]

As you know, we received the Desjardins report and we issued a public release on it and on the use of languages on ships on the St. Lawrence river.

[*Translation*]

Later on, on the date he indicated, I realized after checking that we had not published this press release and I made the necessary correction personally before the committee. In fact, Mr. MacKay's question was the following:

[*English*]

**MR. MACKAY:** Did you not say in the first round, that you had released or made some public statement on the Desjardins report or did I misunderstand you?

**MR. MARCHAND (LANGELIER):** I think I said it. Now, I would like to check if I did. We have not published a press release?

[*Translation*]

I made then the necessary correction before the committee, and Deputy Minister Stoner repeated:

● (1440)

[*English*]

The report has not been released. We have not actually made a report on it.

So I was wrong. I did not do it.

.....

Excuse me.

This I did on my own, Mr. Speaker, and this may be the kind of thing that some members opposite would not have the courage to do, but I did it—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):** The trouble is, that is all you have done.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** After that, he asked for the Desjardins report and I tabled it. He received it first. I sent him the Desjardins report and I said I had signed the regulations but not the public communiqué. So they publicly found circulation among all members here—

**An hon. Member:** Marchand lied to the House of Commons.

**An hon. Member:** You read the papers.

**An hon. Member:** Again?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** I always thought that the hon. member for Central Nova was an honest man. I still believe it, but I think he pushed a little hard on this.

**Mr. MacKay:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for his answer. I should like to take the matter up further at the first opportunity on the adjournment debate and continue this with him.