

Oral Questions

sure. I am inclined to doubt it. I think our position is very well known. I am happy to be meeting with the chairman of the IJC tomorrow and will be very glad to take it up with him at that time.

Mr. McKenzie: Mr. Speaker, the House Appropriations Committee report states:

None of the funds provided for the project will affect Canadian waters.

This is not an accurate statement. I have information that the funds provided in the bill do concern project features which will affect Canadian waters, namely the Lonetree Reservoir project. Will the minister do everything possible to have the increased funding stopped? The United States is acting in very bad faith.

* * *

TRANSPORT**REQUEST THAT RAILWAY RIGHTS OF WAY REVERT TO CROWN ONCE LINE ABANDONED**

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the statement which the minister made to the farmers in Saskatchewan, that he would be in favour of railway rights of way reverting to the Crown once they are abandoned—an obvious change of heart since the Hall Commission—I would ask the minister if he would ask the cabinet and the government House leader if they would immediately call forth the bill which I put on the order paper last January to ensure, when passed, that the railway rights of way would revert to the Crown once they are abandoned.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I assure the hon. member that I have had no change of heart on the subject, although I did await my comments until I received the Hall report. We will be considering the necessary action to follow up on that recommendation. It may or may not require legislation.

* * *

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**PROPOSAL THAT HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT BE REQUESTED TO RELEASE GECZI CHILDREN**

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Further to a motion put in this House last week dealing with the insistence of the Hungarian government to disallow three Canadian youths, who are being held against their wills, to be reunited with their parents in Toronto, and realizing the fact that the government is aware of this case and has taken some steps, though ineffective, for the release of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Geczi, could the minister now assure this House that he will demand publicly that the Hungarian government immediately release the Geczi children

[Mr. Jamieson.]

in order that they may be reunited with their parents in Canada?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the only possible exception I might take to the hon. member's question is whether I will make the demand publicly. I will certainly commit myself to taking every practical action we can take and those actions which I consider to be the most promising. I emphasize that, because the hon. member is aware that sometimes other than public declarations are more suitable in these matters. But I can assure the hon. member that we have the matter very much on our minds, that we have made representations already and I propose to make others and make them most vigorously in the most appropriate way.

* * *

FINANCE**EFFECT OF DIALOGUE ON SEPARATION ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS**

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. As the minister has said on Monday before the Canadian manufacturers that uncertainty in Quebec is hurting the Canadian economy, has the minister defined to what extent the dialogue of separation is causing increased unemployment and a business slow-down in Canada and in what areas?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): It would be very difficult to assess this in purely quantitative terms. Certainly, in terms of a more general reaction, particularly from the business community, there is this element of uncertainty as a factor which is evident in their comments.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

ANTI-INFLATION ACT**TABLING OF REFERRAL TO ADMINISTRATOR CONCERNING SEVERAL COMPANIES**

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table a referral to the Administrator under the Anti-Inflation Act with respect to Les Pistes de Courses Richelieu Inc., the Canadian Freightways Limited and the Collingwood Shipyards and Trailways of Canada Limited.