

Oral Questions

to investigate or to inquire from the leading distributors whether or not the conditions referred to do, in fact, exist?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, that seems to be quite a separate approach to the problem and it is in the hands of my colleague.

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COMBINES

POSSIBILITY OF INVESTIGATION OF FILM DISTRIBUTORS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Perhaps, then, I might ask the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs whether he has had a chance to study this submission from the film makers, and in view of the interest taken in the possibility of a monopoly situation can he tell us whether he has responded to the petition or whether he has instructed the Combines Investigation Branch to launch a full inquiry?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member surely knows that when appellants publicly declare they are requesting an inquiry, the administrator is naturally bound to initiate such an inquiry and assume his responsibilities pursuant to the act.

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[English]

CONSUMER AFFAIRSALLEGATION OF EXCESSIVE PROFITS BY FOOD CHAINS—
GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. It arises from the report, commissioned by the Food Prices Review Board, pointing out that there is a high correlation between excessive profits and corporate concentration in food chains. What specific steps does the minister responsible intend to take to roll back prices in the seven cities which were designated as the cities in which the outlets were making excessive profits, namely, the four cities in the West along with Thunder Bay and St. John's?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am in the process of studying this report. I have asked some of my department officials to examine more particularly the points of emphasis in this report. As for excessive profits I shall take up the matter with my colleague who is in charge of the Anti-Inflation Board.

[Mr. MacDonald (Egmont).]

[English]

COMBINES

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF PART TWO OF COMPETITION BILL

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): In view of the fact that the report confirmed what we in this Party have been saying for years about corporate concentration and high profits in the food industry, can the minister give the House a definite date by which he will introduce the second part of the competition bill or any other legislation which might deal with the recommendations contained in the study? Can he be specific as to a date?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): As soon as possible, at the beginning of next session, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRSESTABLISHMENT OF HELICOPTER FORCE AND USE OF
AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH
STRICKEN COUNTRIES

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, before addressing my question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs I hope I might be allowed to pay tribute to those dedicated and courteous public servants in the consular division of the Department of External Affairs, as well as in Guatemala for their tireless efforts to locate Canadians missing in Guatemala and to reassure worried relatives in Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): My question is this: in order to avoid a recurrence of some of the communications problems which revealed themselves during the earthquake disaster, has the government taken any steps to set up a standing emergency helicopter force which might fly to stricken countries in case of need in order to improve internal communications in such circumstances. Also, has any effort been made to enlist the support of Canadian ham radio operators so as to improve communications between Canada and stricken countries? I know ham radio operators are ready, willing and able to co-operate.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): As to the first point, the hon. member made a constructive suggestion recently that we might make a helicopter, or a number of helicopters, available to the Guatemalan authorities. We investigated that proposal and found that in the circumstances the airport facilities in Guatemala could not service more helicopters than were in use at that particular time. Therefore any contribution that we might be willing to make would, in the circumstances, be redundant.

● (1440)

I believe that the suggestions he has made with respect to emergency preparedness in future situations are con-