

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ACTION TO ASSIST CAPTAIN OF "GREENPEACE III" TO OBTAIN DAMAGES FROM FRANCE

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I could engage the attention of the Prime Minister for a moment. Has the government yet come to a decision on how it might assist Captain David McTaggart in pressing his damage claim against the government of France over the illegal boarding of the Canadian vessel, *Greenpeace III*, in the South Pacific last summer? If a decision has been reached can the Prime Minister tell us what method of assisting Captain McTaggart has been selected by the government?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs has discussed this matter with me several times over the past few months. I do not find myself in a position to indicate to the hon. member what specific methods have been agreed upon at this time. I do want to say that we feel modest progress is being made and will be made. If the hon. member would permit, I will ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs to report to the House as soon as he feels he is in a position to do so.

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GRAIN

PLANS TO MOVE GRAIN FROM AREAS THAT MAY BE FLOODED

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the minister in charge of the Canadian Wheat Board, supplementary to that asked by the right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert. In view of possible flooding in the Red River and Roseau River valleys, a situation which the Manitoba flood forecasting committee rates as a distinct possibility, can the minister indicate what emergency plans are ready to put into place to move grain from these areas to prevent the spoiling of grain now in farm storage?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, following the various planning meetings of several weeks ago, an operational committee is now in existence under the chairmanship of a commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board in Winnipeg to examine the whole question of what trucking is available and what means can be used to move grain in addition to the grain that can be moved on the rail lines that are open. These particular questions, therefore, are brought to the attention of this committee and the Canadian Wheat Board and what can be done is done to move grain from sensitive areas. Obviously, with snow conditions across the prairies being extremely serious in many places, not all of the movement of grain that would be desirable in the next few weeks can be accomplished.

Oral Questions
COMBINES

ALLEGATION THAT CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION INDUCED INFORMATION CANADA TO ADOPT SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICES FOR CERTAIN PUBLICATIONS

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs but as he has stepped behind the curtain perhaps I can address it to the Minister of Justice in his absence. In view of the evidence presented to the Standing Committee on Broadcasting, Films and Assistance to the Arts on March 21 by Mr. Beauchamp of Information Canada to the effect that the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation had induced Information Canada to adopt a suggested retail price for certain publications in contravention of section 38(2) of the Combines Investigation Act, will the minister lay charges against the CBC?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to have a look at the suggestion and the allegations, but of course I would not indicate in advance a decision concerning charges.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the Secretary of State. Would the Secretary of State undertake to bring this case to the official notice of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation so that programs like "As it Happens" and "Market Place" will have an opportunity to air it thoroughly before it becomes sub judice?

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State): I will look into that matter, Mr. Speaker.

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INCOME TAX

ALBERTA PROPOSAL TO ADMINISTER COLLECTION OF PROVINCIAL TAX ON CORPORATIONS

Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Would the minister inform the House what communication he has had with the government of Alberta concerning a proposal that Alberta administer the collection of its own corporation income tax?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am in constant communication with the province of Alberta and Mr. Gordon Miniely, the minister of finance for Alberta, who called me before the announcement was made by Premier Lougheed. I told him that I understood the priorities of the province to diversify industry beyond a merely primary resource economy into a secondary and tertiary industry economy with particular attention to the small businessman. I thanked him for this advance notice and told him I am looking forward to consulting with him as to how to achieve those objectives without destroying the essential harmony of the tax system across the country.