

which is the Interdepartmental Committee on Search And Rescue, are very much aware of the urgency of having a plan such as this just in case such an emergency happens.

PROVISION OF HELICOPTER FACILITIES AT MASSET, B.C.

**Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River):** Madam Speaker, the interesting aspect about the report on search and rescue which is in front of us is that it really means no advancement at all to the system we have in place. The title has been changed and minimum presentation has been reorganized but, in my opinion, the report is really a sham.

The statements by the Minister are largely self-serving. In the winter, the disaster involving the *Prinzendam* would have seen 500 people at the bottom of the sea, and it was largely a question of luck. There are some very notable and very serious problems. Would the Minister give us a commitment as to when he will put the helicopter base and equipment at Masset, which will fill a very large gap? Will he give us an assurance that he will not take that resource from some other base in Canada, robbing Peter to pay Paul? Would he give us an indication of what kind of resources he will put along the Gulf of St. Lawrence which will prevent death in the water, such as on the *Hudson Transport*? Will he hire enough people to—

**Madam Speaker:** Order.

[Translation]

**Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, I think that if saving lives were a matter of luck . . . We have a saying in French that luck is always on the side of those who know how to play, and I think there must have been a lot of knowledgeable people in Search and Rescue.

[English]

I know that the Hon. Member is interested in the West Coast, coming from Comox-Powell River. I can tell that he probably has not read the report at all, because, by the question he has asked, he is not aware of what we have done in that area. I can tell him that there have been many improvements in the SAR capabilities on the West Coast. For example, we have a third hovercraft which we did not have last year. We have a 600 class cutter and two—

**Mr. Skelly:** Those cutters have been taken away. It's not true!

**Mr. Lamontagne:** Well, even if the Hon. Member does not want to hear the answer, he might as well listen to it. There have been improvements to the different Coast Guard vessels, and there is also a new helicopter in Comox, which is one of the new upgraded SARCUP versions of helicopter. Therefore, I think that, as far as the West is concerned, capabilities have been greatly improved so far as search and rescue is concerned.

Oral Questions

CANADA POST CORPORATION

ISSUANCE OF COMMEMORATIVE STAMP FOR BICENTENNIAL OF UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

**Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** Madam Speaker, I appreciate your recognition. I direct my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs who is responsible for Canada Post. I wrote to the Minister in September of 1980 concerning the issuance of a stamp to commemorate the arrival of the United Empire Loyalists in Lower Canada in 1783 and Upper Canada in 1784. It would be most fitting to mark this important migration, since it played such a significant role in the development of our nation, as the migration consisted not only of English people, but also of Mohawk Indians, Germans, Swiss, Dutch, French and Spanish people. I would like to ask the Minister why a commemorative stamp has not been issued to mark this bicentennial in 1983 and 1984.

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

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I take the representation of the Hon. Member, and I will be discussing the matter with the Canada Post Corporation. I understand that the program for 1983 is now complete. I understand that the members of the advisory committee saw fit to retain this proposal for 1984. Therefore, the Hon. Member should expect that such a commemorative, will probably be in the 1984 program.

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

● (1500)

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE OF SERIOUS CONSIDERATION

**Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington):** My supplementary is to the same Minister, Madam Speaker. I appreciate his remarks, but I would just like to say that is why I notified him in 1980, in order to give him enough lead time to consider the stamp. I would like to suggest to the Minister that it seems very disappointing that, in 1976, Canada Post issued a bicentennial stamp recognizing the American revolution, so I would certainly hope that this Minister, as soon as possible, would make this representation. I also ask the Prime Minister to make representation to Canada Post that this be given serious consideration. Could I get that commitment?

[Translation]

**Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Madam Speaker, of course I shall transmit the Hon. Member's representations to the Canada Post Corporation.