

● (1150)

TRANSPORT

USE OF FOREIGN NAVAL ARCHITECTS TO DESIGN EAST COAST FERRY REPLACEMENTS

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware that consideration is being given to awarding a contract to a foreign firm of naval architects and designers, if, indeed, the contract has not already been awarded, for the design of replacements for such east coast ferries as the *Abegweit*, as well as ships chartered from a Swedish firm, which provide ferry service to and from Newfoundland?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the questions about design are in hand. I will look at the particular statements which have been made with regard to these facilities and provide the hon. member with the information.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister is not aware that Canadian designers who had been working on this particular project had their contract cancelled, after which the off-shore interest was shown. I wonder why the ministry would favour off-shore designers when there is a capability in Canada. He is destroying a Canadian industry.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is jumping to the wrong conclusion. The ending of certain phases of study does not indicate that the work has been switched to anybody else.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): But the contract was taken away from them.

Mr. Lang: That is right, but not necessarily switched to anybody else. It indicates, rather, that further time may be taken to examine the exact needs and the timing for expenditures which will be involved. These will be major expenditures; accordingly, we are reflecting further upon them.

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AGRICULTURE

POSSIBILITY OF SWITCHING GOVERNMENT LENDING PROGRAMS FOR PRODUCERS TO PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. What does the minister's department intend to do about a somewhat questionable report, prepared in part by the Department of Agriculture, recommending that federal government financing of programs such as the Farm Credit Corporation be discontinued and that farmers should turn completely to private lending institutions for long-term financing?

Oral Questions

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have no intention of following such report, if such a report does exist.

Mr. Murta: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I submit that that kind of report exists, and I think it was prepared in part by a United States American consultant. I ask the minister this: is the government considering any changes in its lending programs for agricultural producers?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, we have, in this country, one of the best lending programs in the world, and we intend to continue it that way.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

ATTITUDE OF CORPORATION TOWARDS SEPARATIST CANDIDATES

Mr. Albert Béchar (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I wish to put a question of national interest to the Secretary of State.

Could he tell the House and all sincere Canadians whether he intends to take action about the sacrosanct CBC and find out how it proposes to react to the crusade against Canada launched today by Mrs. Lise Payette in her capacity as separatist candidate in the election campaign now under way in the province of Quebec?

[English]

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hon. member's great concern and interest but am not sure if he is seriously asking me to take steps which would lead to preventing journalists, commentators or entertainers who work for Radio-Canada from entering political life. I hope he is not asking me to do that.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

POSSIBLE ACTION ON JUDGMENT IN RUDNICKI CASE—REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF EMPLOYEE

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, my question, which is a follow-up of the question I directed to the Prime Minister a week ago, is for the Minister of Justice. In light of the judgment rendered by a Supreme Court of Ontario judge which places in question the minister's own propriety and credibility as well as that of a senior public servant affectionately known here as the hon. member for "commerce capital", is the minister prepared to make a statement today as to any disciplinary action which may be contemplated as a result of the judgment handed down by the judge?