

Inquiries of the Ministry

has anything to report to the House and the country regarding the announced sale of the publishing firm of McClelland and Stewart?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am not sure to what specific responsibility that question refers. I have no announcement to make, although I understand that one of my colleagues has.

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I address that same question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I gather that the hon. member for St. John's East was about to redirect his question in the way that the hon. member for Selkirk has attempted to do by a supplementary question.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was rising to his feet to respond to the question.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have done what I said I would do yesterday, and that is to obtain as much information as I could. First, my officials have been in touch with Mr. McClelland and he has confirmed that the company is for sale, that a sale to foreign interests is not contemplated and is unlikely, and that if it should ever be contemplated he would be in touch with me first. Secondly, the interdepartmental committee has met on a number of occasions and they have divided the work of investigation. The Secretary of State is preparing a policy on book publication which might very well include the establishment of a Canadian publishing development corporation.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pepin: An announcement to that effect will be made in due course in the proper way. In the meantime the Secretary of State is to meet on March 1 and March 2 with publishers. This was planned some time ago. I also intend to attend that meeting to demonstrate that it is both a cultural and an economic problem. Thirdly, Mr. Speaker, in my department officials are working to step up activities in the export field. We have commissioned Dr. W. H. Clarke, Vice-president of Clarke Irwin Limited, to provide us with some immediate short-term assistance in this field. We are increasing our participation in trade fairs abroad and we are considering the feasibility of establishing Canadian book centres abroad. Fourthly, Mr. Speaker,—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I perhaps can assume that the "fourthly" was also "lastly". I am sure the minister will be given an opportunity to give us the "fourthly" by way of a supplementary question that I gather the hon. member for St. John's East wishes to ask.

Mr. McGrath: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question, hopefully, will give the minister a chance to give us

[Mr. McGrath.]

his "fourthly". Does the minister's answer refer to the interdepartmental study which he alluded to yesterday? If not, would he now undertake to bring us up to date on that subject, as he did in the House during his reply yesterday?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, the study which I have already tabled is the basis of the assessment of the situation which has been going on. Decisions are developing from that basis. Fourthly, the Minister of National Revenue, with whom I have consulted, also assures me that this aspect of book publication is part of his study of foreign investment in Canada.

Mr. Rowland: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether he is also studying the possibility of assisting Canadian publishers in establishing a book publishing firm in the United States to give them access to that market?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, I contacted the Secretary of State in Chicoutimi this morning, and what I have said is the only thing I have been authorized to say.

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POLLUTION

PROVISION OF ADEQUATE TREATMENT FACILITIES IN CHURCHILL FOREST INDUSTRIES PROJECT— MEETING WITH MANITOBA MINISTER

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In answering a question on January 27 the minister indicated his concern about inadequate pollution facilities at the Churchill Forest Industries project at The Pas, Manitoba, and mentioned that he would be meeting with the appropriate Manitoba minister during the following week. Has the minister had that meeting with the Manitoba minister?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I have had a long telephone discussion with Hon. René Toupin and his advisers. There has also been some correspondence exchanged on this subject. We have advised him of the new standards which we are developing jointly with the provinces and which would apply to the new kraft mill in northern Manitoba.

Mr. Simpson: Mr. Speaker, is the minister aware of the very strong concern among many of the wildlife authorities in the province of Manitoba regarding what they consider to be poor liaison between the federal government and the Manitoba provincial government on this matter?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, discussions have been held between officials of my department and the officials of several departments in Manitoba concerning pollution in the northern part of the province.