

Oral Questions

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, the hon. member asks whether we invited our friends or not. If she has friends, she must know that we do not necessarily invite friends to come to our home; they drop in when they feel like it, and we are always glad to have them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lamontagne: As far as the basic question of the visit of the U.S.S. *Ranger* aircraft carrier to Vancouver is concerned, I cannot give an answer to that because it would be irrelevant to explain the whole policy of defence of the NATO alliance and how we work together toward a deterrent and toward the best way possible to avoid war. If the hon. member were to come to my office I would try to explain all this to her.

Mr. Nowlan: As a friend.

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GARRISON DIVERSION

UNITED STATES FUNDING OF PROJECT

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton-Lawrence): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. A week ago last Thursday the U.S. Senate appropriations committee approved additional funding of \$4 million for work on the Garrison diversion project. This comes after a statement by the United States Interior Secretary that he is fully behind the Garrison project. Can the minister assure the House that the Government of Canada will seek guarantees that the additional funding will not be spent on parts of the project which could harm Manitoba waters, or that it does not represent a commitment of any kind toward the completion of the entire project?

Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for raising this important question again. It is one that greatly concerns the government and is one which I have frequently discussed with my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

The alleged comment of the U.S. Secretary was referred to previously in this House. We have been informed by his office that he did not make any such comment during his visit to the contiguous part of the United States but that a rather careless newspaper headline, which was not reflected in the story, probably gave rise to that impression. We are, of course, concerned about the action of the U.S. Senate committee. We have made representation to them before and we have since discussed the matter with the U.S. government.

The relieving factors at the present time are, first of all, that it is still a decision of the committee and not of the whole Senate and, second, there are some legal problems with it which may mean that, in any event, it may not be appropriate to be attached to an appropriate bill.

Beyond that, there is written into the legislation, at the stage at which it is now, the instruction that it must not be used for any construction which would in any way affect Canada. Of course that is the assurance we are seeking. It is the assurance which the U.S. administration repeated to us as recently as last week.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATIONAPPEARANCE OF CANADIAN PIPERS AT EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, my question is addressed to the minister who answers in the House for the CBC. The minister may or may not know that Canada was honoured this past summer by the international military tattoo in Edinburgh, by the adoption of the theme "Canadiana" for the event. He may or may not know either that a contingent of more than 100 Canadian pipers, drummers and dancers from all parts of the country took part in the tattoo and did Canada proud with their outstanding performances.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): That was amply demonstrated by a TV program shown throughout the United Kingdom and the continent, both alive and by rebroadcast.

Madam Speaker: Order, please. Really, this is unreasonable to have such a long preamble to a question.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, he would not know about it, and I had to explain the background.

Will the minister find out why the CBC has refused to carry this TV program, even though it has been offered to them, and even though it is being broadcast widely in the United States and throughout the Commonwealth?

Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications): Yes, Madam Speaker.

REQUEST THAT BROADCAST BE SHOWN IN CANADA

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Madam Speaker, at least the minister knows something that he did not know before.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Perhaps the minister would find out at the same time whether TV audiences in Canada will ever have the opportunity to see this outstanding display of Canadian talent in an overseas setting. In short, it was good PR for Canada, and I see no reason why Canadians should be denied access to it.