

Oral Questions

projects show that. In addition, this proposal will facilitate fraudulent applications from the criminal element.

Why does the minister not listen to reason and send this pork-barrelling project back to the drawing boards as quickly as possible?

• (1500)

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, Canadians will find little comfort in the assertion of the hon. member that using new technologies, trying to better serve the public with new technologies, with a more effective and efficient service, is going backward.

I know that the Liberal approach to things is to go back and see in the past a solution for the future, but that is not the way to go.

People will be better served by this new service, will benefit from it and, more important, taxpayers will save money. That is what we have to do.

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[*Translation*]

BILL C-7

Mr. Gilles Duceppe (Laurier—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour.

On June 11, 1992, this House passed Bill C-7, respecting the status of the artist. On June 23, 1992, the bill received Royal Assent. Today, March 16, 1993, the legislation is still not in effect. As a result, associations representing artists are unable to settle a number of important issues, which has very serious implications for many artists.

The Minister of Communications has already told artists that the legislation required a complex process. If the process is so complex, I would like to ask the Minister of Labour when he intends to consult the interested parties and when the legislation will finally come into effect?

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the hon. member that it will not be long.

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[*English*]

FORESTRY

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Forestry.

It is my understanding that European governments are about to ban green lumber shipments from Canada because of a high nematode infestation and that this ban is going to take effect on June 1 this year.

Further I understand that because of the increased costs for kiln drying and heating our manufacturers are going to be at a disadvantage for costs they cannot recover.

In light of what is really a trade sanction disguised as a scientific sanction, what action is being taken to alleviate the situation? Is there any prospect that the ban can be postponed? Can our industry be competitive with heat treated lumber on a certified basis?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, my friend is correct. This is a very serious issue in the sense that it puts at risk potentially \$300 million worth of trade with the European Community. It is for that reason we are dealing with it at the highest level.

Our efforts in the first instance are to ensure that our European colleagues understand the clear distinction between plant health issues and trade. We have applied for an extension to allow us to do further studies. We have also applied for a species exemption to allow those species that are not affected by the nematode to be shipped freely.

We expect some answers from the Europeans in due course.

Mr. Speaker: I want to advise the House that I have a question of privilege from the hon. member for Timmins—Chapleau, but before hearing that I want to respond to a question of privilege brought by the same member on March 11.