

Oral Questions

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I am not absolutely certain that I possess such powers but I will be happy to look into the matter.

Mr. Nielsen: A supplementary question. Since the report also recommends that, in order to help bridge the nutrition gap in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories which is caused by this unjustified gap between food prices and the cost of transport, a selection of nutritious foods be subsidized by the federal government, particularly fresh foods and dairy products, in the interim will the minister speak to his cabinet colleagues in the hope that a decision might be made to implement that recommendation of the Food Prices Review Board forthwith in order to ensure a continuous supply of nutritious foods in the north at the same prices as other Canadians pay for them?

Mr. Buchanan: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to look into the recommendation of the hon. member.

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● (1450)

OLYMPIC GAMES**ALLEGED MISLEADING ADVERTISING FOR SILVER COINS—
GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Postmaster General, I will put my question to his parliamentary secretary or, rather, the President of the Treasury Board who is closely connected with this subject matter. In view of the fact that over the weekend an American television network, CBS, stated in a report that Canadian silver Olympic coins, due to over-production and overpricing, are unlikely to increase in value, contrary to the Olympic coin advertising campaign, is the government prepared to take steps to have the advertising campaign under the coin program altered in a way that it will no longer be misleading to the public?

Mr. Paul E. McRae (Parliamentary Secretary to Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I am very surprised at the CBS statement. We have an excellent coin program in all respects. Sales have been very good. It seems that the problem lies with the lack of sophistication in the American market. We have done extremely well on the European market in the sale of our coins. Sales have been excellent. It seems that the American market may be a little slow due to this lack of sophistication.

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CONSUMER AFFAIRS**REQUEST FOR ACTION TO DEAL WITH ALLEGED MISLEADING
ADVERTISING FOR OLYMPIC SILVER COINS**

Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Notwithstanding the parliamentary secretary's non-answer to my question, I will put my supplementary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In view of the fact that many Canadian coin dealers, as a matter of fact nine out of ten I talked to this morning, confirm the statement

[Mr. Nielsen.]

made on the Columbia Broadcasting System as factual and added that there is even a likelihood of the coins decreasing from their original value and therefore clearly making the whole Olympic coin advertising campaign, through its ads over television, misleading to the public at large, is the minister now prepared to enforce the provisions of his own Combines Act, Section 36, dealing with false and misleading advertising?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, given the type of questions he puts and interventions he makes, I have always wondered whether the hon. member is really for or against the Olympic Games. One again I notice that his intervention reflects a rather clouded mind, and the way he puts his questions surely hides ulterior motives. On the other hand, if the hon. member has elements of proof or other pertinent information to convey, I shall be pleased to transmit them to the director of inquiries.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR PORTER ON CANADA-UNITED
STATES RELATIONS—POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER**

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Prime Minister because I am anxious that we do not send any gunboats as a result of Ambassador Porter's frankness. There is a fair amount of hyperbole about this issue. I think it is worth while keeping our perspective. Is it not a fact that it is healthier for relations between two countries to have this type of exchange rather than the usual platitudes that take place on our respective national days? Does the Prime Minister not welcome this somewhat unorthodox method of reminding Canadians and Americans of what are obviously irritants on both sides of the border?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member that gunboats will not be called for. I thought I made it clear that we had no quarrel with what the President of the United States or the administration said in these matters. Therefore, if gunboats were called for, it would be against an ambassador. That obviously is overkill.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: The hon. member seems to feel that this is a healthy state of affairs. I do not want to intervene in the way in which the United States runs its affairs. However, I suggest if it has this kind of representation to make to me, I find it passing strange that it does not come from the President or Secretary of State, but comes from some ambassador talking to somebody else. I suggest that is not the usual way of proceeding.