

Oral Questions
TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO SINKING OF "SAN JUAN"—
 REASON RECOMMENDATION OF JUDICIAL INQUIRY NOT
 ACTED UPON

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport and perhaps I can avoid a supplementary by putting it in two parts. First, does the minister intend, in compliance with the request of the Newfoundland government and others, to conduct a judicial inquiry into the sinking of the fishing vessel *San Juan* and the role of the Canadian coastguard in relation thereto. Also could the minister tell the House whether he intends to cause his own investigation into the reasons the recommendation of the last judicial inquiry into a sinking were not acted upon which had to do with the greater dispersal of the search and rescue units on the east coast?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Well, Mr. Speaker, the decision on the over-all question of where search and rescue facilities are located and how many are provided is one the government has to take with an eye on the various priorities and how we can accommodate them. It is my intention to look further into the allegations and details of the specific incident of last week, and I would want to do that before I reach any further conclusion as to whether a further inquiry is justified.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

LOCKHEED CONTRACT—DELAY IN SIGNING CONTRACT—
 POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT CANADAIR

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to questions asked earlier. It is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Can he indicate whether he or any of the officials of his department have had any representations about Canadair with regard to this prolonged delay in the signing of the contract for the Orion and whether or not any such representations had to do with refurbishing of the Argus or the bringing back up again of the so-called Phoenix program?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, some months or years ago Canadair was one of the contenders during the evaluation phase and did put forward a proposal which was not accepted. Until we have completed the negotiation on the Lockheed contract one way or the other we are not entertaining proposals from any other source including Canadair.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Speaker, I understand from the minister then that there have been no representations from Canadair along these lines. Could the minister indicate when we might expect a conclusion of the present negotiations in respect of the Orion contract.

Mr. Richardson: Well, Mr. Speaker, in completing the answer to the first question, there have been no representations from Canadair to me personally. I cannot say how

[Mr. Lang]

long it will take to complete the negotiations with Lockheed.

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POST OFFICE

SALE OF STAMPS BY OVERSEAS DEALERS—ALLEGED
 CONTRAVENTION OF AGREEMENT

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Postmaster General. What steps does the Postmaster General contemplate to stop the sale of Canadian postage stamps by overseas dealers, who are paid a commission of 25 per cent in apparent contravention of the Post Office Act which calls for a commission of 2 per cent, to prevent the return to Canada of some of these stamps for use as postage in Canada, in apparent violation of the agreement with overseas dealers and in apparent contravention of the act which reserves to the Post Office the right to sell postage stamps in Canada.

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the hon. gentleman says there is no evidence of any of these stamps returning to Canada. The fact that we are using the facilities, particularly of some countries, is purely an economic matter because we find it less expensive than setting up our own. If the hon. gentleman has any information or concrete evidence that stamps are coming back to Canada, I would be glad to receive it.

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AGRICULTURE

MILK—POSSIBILITY TAXPAYERS RATHER THAN FARMERS
 WILL PAY LOSSES

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to come back to the question of the dairy farmers and the figures we have seen in the papers this morning about the huge losses under the CDC program, the program of the Canadian Dairy Commission. Is there any intention on the part of the minister to load part of these costs on taxpayers in general instead of the hard-pressed dairy farmers?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Not at the present time, Mr. Speaker.

CHEESE—PROPOSED REDUCTION IN IMPORTS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the proposal which I understand is before cabinet now to increase our imports of cheese this year from the European Common Market Community by 50 million pounds, I should like to ask the minister whether or not he has been able to persuade his cabinet colleagues to cut back on the imports of cheese because of the over-supply of dairy products in this country.

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce announced there would be no increase in the quota for specialty cheeses coming into Canada and that it would remain at 50 million pounds. Negotiations will take place with the countries which are exporting that cheese to Canada and which are subsidizing it to the tune, in some