

*Oral Questions*

Barry Stuart from Whitehorse that he considers this a dangerous practice? Would he also advise if he is aware of any other cases in Canada where this is applied to indictable offences as well as to summary offences, and whether or not he agrees with this kind of plea bargaining and abuse of process?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice):** Madam Speaker, I do not have personal knowledge of any of the matters mentioned by the hon. gentleman. I would want to leave a considerable margin for the prosecutors and judges in all cases of plea bargaining.

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**ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY**

## UNITED STATES PROPOSAL FOR YEAR-ROUND SHIPPING

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for External Relations, regarding the concern of some municipalities and communities along the St. Marys River over the U.S. House of Representatives Bill HR3678 which provides for year-round shipping in the Seaway and which could have adverse environmental impact on Canada, such as harming the fishery resource and the flooding of adjacent areas.

Can the Minister say what response he has received from the U.S. administration to the Canadian diplomatic note delivered a few weeks ago? Is the U.S. administration going to use its considerable influence to oppose this part of the Bill in the House of Representatives, and what further actions or steps are planned by the federal Government to protect our environment in this matter?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, at the time of my last inquiry there had been no reply from the United States to this note. I want to assure the Hon. Member that the Canadian Government has no plans for extending the navigation season on the Seaway, particularly in view of the current under-utilisation of Seaway capacity. The draft American Bill on the subject is still at an early stage, and developments remain uncertain. But our note very clearly expressed concerns about the potential environmental impact under the season extension proposal.

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**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## GRENADA—REPORTED SHOOTING OF PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the same Minister on an unrelated matter. Given the reports by Radio Free Grenada of extreme reaction to the house arrest of Prime Minister Bishop and the report, about 2.20 this afternoon, that the Prime Minister had in fact been released but had been shot, and there was no report as to his condition, can the Minister indicate to the House what information he has, for the benefit

of thousands of Grenadians here in Canada who will be most anxious and concerned about the well-being of their country and Prime Minister?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, the situation in Grenada is extremely unsettled, as the Hon. Member indicates by the latest of the radio reports to which he referred. However, we have no confirmed reports of the shooting of Prime Minister Bishop. What we do have is an indication that his supporters had released him from house arrest and that there is considerable confusion about what is happening on the island. According to our latest indication, there seems to be no danger for the Canadians who are on the island, and there is no report of widespread violence.

## SAFETY OF CANADIAN CITIZENS

**Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East):** Madam Speaker, in his continuing monitoring of this situation could the Minister not only determine for sure, because he is somewhat vague, the situation of Canadians, whether tourists or otherwise, who may be there, and whether they are free to leave or return to the island? Would he perhaps take an early opportunity tomorrow to give us an updated report as it has now been one week since there have been those extreme difficulties on that island, and particularly pay attention to whether or not there is any suggestion that this same turmoil might be in the process of being extended to other small islands in that part of the Caribbean Basin?

**Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)):** Madam Speaker, we have absolutely no indication or reason for thinking that there could be any extension of the unsettled conditions from Grenada itself, where a particular situation exists. We are continuing to monitor the situation. There has been a representative of the Canadian diplomatic post in Barbados present in Grenada and in contact with a substantial number of the Canadians in the area. According to my information there are about 81 Canadians resident there. Through answers to questions we certainly will attempt to keep the House informed about the situation as it develops in Grenada.

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**FINANCE**

## TAX PROPOSAL AFFECTING CHARITIES

**Mr. Walter McLean (Waterloo):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance whose Department issued a discussion paper entitled "Charities and the Canadian Tax System", in May. The Minister has heard from a wide cross section of Canadian groups such as health care, and religious and social service agencies. There has been widespread criticism of the proposed elimination of the distinction between charities and charitable foundations.