

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, February 28, 1969

The house met at 11 a.m.

"- A HOST, OF GOLDEN DAFFODILS"

Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, again this year spring has arrived early on Canada's Pacific coast. The British Columbia daffodils on display in the house have arrived here by Air Canada. British Columbia members of all parties invite their friends in other parts of Canada to join our celebration because spring is here.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure whether the minister wants to participate in the motion. I have the impression that the procedure is irregular in that the green chamber is being transformed into a greenhouse.

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not really wish to participate, except to thank our friends from British Columbia for this gesture. We are as pleased as they are that the snows have gone and that now flowers are back in evidence. The way we think of that wonderful province is now reborn in the approach of spring.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

MISCELLANEOUS ESTIMATES

Fourth report of the Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Estimates, in French and English—Mr. Fernand-E. Leblanc (Laurier).

[Note: Text of foregoing report appears in today's Votes and Proceedings.]

[English]

SHIPPING

REPORT BY TRANSPORT COMMISSION AS TO OWNERSHIP AND REGISTRATION

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table in English and in French two copies of the report prepared by the Canadian Transport Commission following the inquiry by the water transport committee into the operations of the provisions of the Canada Shipping Act governing the ownership and registration of ships in Canada.

An hon. Member: Was that a study in depth?

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

OIL

INQUIRY AS TO RESPONSE FROM PROVINCES RESPECTING OFFSHORE RIGHTS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, last December the Prime Minister made a statement in the house in regard to the question of offshore mineral rights in which he indicated that he would be in touch with the provincial governments with regard to a proposal he outlined. I wonder if I could ask the Acting Prime Minister if responses have been received from all the provincial governments, premiers and prime ministers, and if so whether an agreement has been reached. If that is the case, can the minister tell us when the house would be made aware of what the agreement is?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): I am sorry that I am not in a position to report on this matter this morning, but I did not realize it would be raised. However I will be glad to bring it to the Prime Minister's attention.

CANADIAN OWNERSHIP IN NORTHERN ARCHIPELAGO

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prince Albert): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the Acting Prime Minister would be able to answer this question, but in recent days maps have been issued by the United States indicating ownership of potentially valuable oil areas in islands in the northern archipelago. Have representations clearly defining Canada's right to the sovereignty of the north been made to Washington and has Washington been informed that the fact that United States technicians are in the northern areas or that United States investment is being made in the area in large, or potentially large amounts, in no way derogates from Canada's sovereignty and that we insist on the ownership of all those northern areas?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think I will take this question as notice for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am sure there have been discussions and representations although I would not care to make an offhand reply to the question.