

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question asked in those terms cannot be in order. The hon. member may wish to rephrase his question.

Mr. Reynolds: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will address this question to the Minister of Public Works. Did the Department of Public Works in fact bury three old barges in beautiful Lake Okanagan in late November, 1972?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That question should be placed on the order paper.

[Later:]

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. Earlier there was reference to three derelict barges having been sunk in Lake Okanagan in November. Before this method of disposal was decided upon, was there any consultation with the Department of the Environment? If so, did it receive the approval of the Department of the Environment?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As we are dealing with something that happened a few months ago, that type of question normally ought to be placed on the order paper. If there is urgency, it can be considered at the time of adjournment.

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AGRICULTURE

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GUIDELINES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF LIVESTOCK THROUGH COMMITTEE STUDY—REMOVAL OF CONTROL FROM CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister say whether there will be a special committee established to develop new guidelines for the safe, efficient transportation of livestock, particularly feeder cattle, and will legislation be presented to regulate this through the Department of Agriculture and remove it from the Criminal Code?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): That is under study at present, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. McKinley: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Justice. Can the minister assure the House that the procedures followed in shipping cattle in 1972 will again be allowed in 1973 until new guidelines are established?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, until the legislation is changed the rules which have been in effect will remain in effect. As the Minister of Agriculture indicated, we are seriously looking at the question of the rules. We now have a report from a committee which we established to look at both the economics of the situation and the humane elements involved. These recommendations will soon emerge in the form of recommendations to the House.

Oral Questions

FISHERIES

FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING CORPORATION— INVESTIGATION BY STANDING COMMITTEE OF OPERATIONS AND DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES

Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Fisheries. In light of recent events associated with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, including the resignation and dismissal of a large number of the senior staff and the unfavourable profit and loss picture of that corporation, does the minister intend to refer the matter of the administration and operation of that corporation to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry for investigation and report?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. As hon. members know, we have encountered management problems in that joint federal-provincial crown company's operations. This matter must be referred to the committee because of the financial losses involved.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN CULTURE

POLICY RESPECTING ARTS COUNCIL OBLIGATIONS

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

Can he tell us what is his department's policy on the securities of the Arts Council?

[English]

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State was called out of the House on an urgent matter. He will be back shortly. I will bring this matter to his attention.

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FISHERIES

CONSTRUCTION ON WEST COAST OF VESSELS FOR SERVICE IN THAT AREA

Mr. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries. It concerns additional fishing patrol vessels. In answer to the question, does this mean more work for Vancouver and Victoria shipbuilders, the minister stated over CJVI in Victoria on January 11 that certainly vessels to be operated on the west coast would be built on the west coast. In view of this, does the minister now wish to amend or correct the answer he gave to my question on January 17?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries): In no way, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich.