

Inquiries of the Ministry

Minister of Transport and has reference to one I asked a few days ago. Is the minister in a position today to shed further light on the question whether he or the government have received any indication from United States authorities that they will abandon their meteorological services in the Arctic?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I have looked into this matter and can report that to date we have not received any official notification from the United States. Like the hon. member, I expect, I have seen news reports to this effect, but there has been no official communication or notification.

HISTORIC SITESACQUISITION OF RESIDENCE OF SIR
ROBERT BORDEN

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, may I direct my question to the Secretary of State as custodian pro tem of our historic heritage. Can the Secretary of State advise whether anything is being done to acquire the long-time residence of Prime Minister Sir Robert Borden for the people of Canada so as to forestall its imminent destruction by commercial interests?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that the hon. member is mistaken about the person responsible for historic sites. If that was the object of his question, responsibility for historic sites belongs to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, not to the Secretary of State.

[*English*]

Mr. Macquarrie: Mr. Speaker, I referred not to historic sites but asked about our heritage, in the minister's capacity as minister of culture.

NATIONAL FILM BOARDRECONSIDERATION OF ORDER LEVYING
CHARGES FOR USE OF FILMS

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. I am sure he listened, as we did, to the Prime Minister's statement on motions about forgoing the imposition of user charges. Is it, therefore, planned that the National Film Board's new fee schedule will be included in this sensible policy decision?

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[*Translation*]

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): No, Mr. Speaker, nothing has happened to change the decision I referred to in my previous answers.

[*English*]

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is on the same point. The Secretary of State indicated on February 11 that a decision about the National Film Board had already been made. This was reconfirmed today. I should like to ask the Secretary of State, inasmuch as on February 12 he followed up by writing a letter to me which included the sentence, "Please be assured"—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is not the time for the hon. member to read his correspondence. He should ask his question.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, if you will allow me to finish the sentence, I think you will realize—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows that when asking a question it is not in order to read correspondence. The hon. member should put his question directly.

Mr. Korchinski: With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, this is part of my question, which is simply this. The minister says: "I sincerely hope that a solution will be found". On the previous day he stated in the House that a decision had been made. I want to know what is the truth. When is he telling the truth, and when not?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think there will have to be further correspondence between the minister and the hon. member.

Mr. Korchinski: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a further point of order. I do not know whether he writes the truth or speaks the truth—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member has asked a question and I have made a ruling. I suggest to him that the question as asked is not in order. It might perhaps be redrafted in some other way, but I think he will agree with me, on reflection, that the question as asked is not in accordance with the rules of the House.

Mr. Korchinski: A further supplementary question. How shall I reply to those people who have made inquiries?

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): A supplementary question to the Secretary of State. In