

● (1430)

[English]

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Acting Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I can advise the hon. member that the Canadian representative in Nairobi has been, I believe, several times in Uganda raising this question with the officials of the government. Up to the present time, to my available knowledge, it has not been possible to locate the journalist in question. There is, as I understand it, some doubt as to whether he continues to be in Uganda. Certainly, we are doing everything possible to locate him and to lend whatever support we can in his discovery.

[Translation]

Mr. Beaudoin: Mr. Speaker, can the Acting Prime Minister tell us whether this newspaper man has been identified or is identifiable and whether he stayed in Uganda; also whether any Canadian government official knows of his whereabouts, and with his passport, to what country did he go?

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the identity of the journalist is certainly known to the Canadian authorities. However, it has not been possible to get from the Ugandan authorities information as to his whereabouts and as to whether he is still in Uganda. That is the latest information which I had a day or so ago. The Secretary of State for External Affairs is not in the House at the moment, but I will be happy to follow up this inquiry to ensure that the most recent information is made available to avoid any misunderstanding or misapprehension, certainly to avoid any fear that may be caused as to his whereabouts.

[Translation]

Mr. Armand Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary for the same minister.

Since we seem to have a lot of difficulty to find out where this reporter is now, could the minister tell the House whether it is his intention to break off all relations with Uganda to force this government to give us an answer without delay?

[English]

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should bear in mind that there are a number of Canadians in Uganda, as I recollect. Therefore, it might not be in the best interests of the safety of those Canadians to take the action he recommends, which might be appealing at other times.

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FARM CREDIT CORPORATION

INDICTMENT OF MANAGEMENT IN AUDIT BY SIBALD GROUP— GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, I will direct my question to his parliamentary secretary. In view of the findings of a private management audit of the Farm

Oral Questions

Credit Corporation completed by the Sibbald Group earlier this year, findings that were scathing in their description of poor morale throughout the corporation and noted lack of direction from the top, including the following comments:

The problem of management was voiced during virtually every staff interview at almost all levels of the corporation . . .

The number of references to management problems during the interviews was too great to ignore. There are complaints about lack of credibility, lack of confidence in leadership, lack of communication and mystery regarding corporate objectives at almost all levels of the corporation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Does the hon. member have a question?

Mr. Beatty: Yes, Mr. Speaker. There are a couple of other scathing quotations I could put on the record, but I will let them pass. What action is being taken by the Minister of Agriculture in response to this serious indictment of senior management within this corporation?

[Translation]

Mr. Irénée Pelletier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, all these allegations have proved to be false, after an investigation was made regarding this corporation.

[English]

Mr. Beatty: Is the parliamentary secretary telling this House that the internal management audit commissioned by and conducted on the Farm Credit Corporation, which made those findings I referred to and others, is being examined and found to be false? If so, will the parliamentary secretary tell the House whether the charges made in the consultant's report have been investigated? There have been several instances of cases where employees of the Farm Credit Corporation were enrolled in expensive French language training courses and then sent to areas of the country where no one speaks French, thus losing their ability to speak the language, and serious cases of moonlighting among the staff of the Farm Credit Corporation, including moonlighting on government time. Is the parliamentary secretary denying that?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier: Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member has precise cases in mind, he should tell the House about them. The minister has examined these various reports on several occasions and he did not find anything contrary to the duties of the chairman of the commission.

[English]

Mr. Beatty: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UGANDA—INFORMATION ON STATUS OF JOURNALIST GERALD UTTING

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona): Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to questions asked by the Social