

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the regulations have been developed over a period of years by very competent people, not including Brian Davies. Brian Davies has been warned. He was warned before that helicopters cannot land within half a mile of a herd. If in fact his helicopters have been landing within half a mile, appropriate action will be taken.

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FORESTRY

SHARING BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF COST OF SPRAYING NEW BRUNSWICK FORESTS

Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. Is the government going to continue to share with the province of New Brunswick the cost of spraying New Brunswick's forests to control and eradicate insects, particularly the spruce budworm, during the spring and summer of 1974?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): Yes, Mr. Speaker, but only under a limited budget.

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STATISTICS CANADA

SUPPLYING OF MAILING LISTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham): Mr. Speaker, my question relates to the matter of the confidentiality of income tax mailing lists which I raised in the House yesterday. Again my question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In view of the fact Statistics Canada has now announced that it has discontinued the sale of these lists, even though we have evidence that the lists are still being used, and as the minister responsible for the policies of Statistics Canada implied yesterday that he is not in favour of these lists being used for this purpose, my question is twofold: first, when is the government going to change the legislation and, second, what is the minister doing to stop immediately these lists continuing to be used for this purpose?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we may introduce some amendments to the Statistics Act during the course of this session. As for the second question, I do not think there is any action that I can take, even if I wanted to take action, to prevent those who have purchased these lists quite legally and in good faith from Statistics Canada using them for commercial business purposes.

Oral Questions

TRANSPORT

ACTION TO IMPLEMENT TRANSPORT COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTION OF RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. In light of last weekend's tragic rail deaths in British Columbia, and in light of the report issued in January by the Canadian Transport Commission criticizing CNR and CPR rail safety practices which have resulted in tripling the number of derailments between 1959 and 1972 and calling upon the government to institute rail safety measures, can the minister inform the House what action he intends to take to implement the CTC recommendations and prevent the increase in rail accidents which is predicted by the commission in the absence of government action?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I very much regret this accident. As hon. members know, there was a derailment at Spences Bridge, if my memory serves me well, and two men were killed. Although this was a place where there had not been slides before, it happened that time. We are trying to take care of this situation and we are now pursuing studies with the CTC in order to improve the record.

Mr. Speaker: I recognize the hon. member for Fraser Valley West on a supplementary, followed by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Rose: Since the report accurately predicted deaths would occur unless safety improved, can the minister inform the House whether he has established a deadline for completion of his department's study of this report, and when will he announce to the House the measures that his department will take to implement the CTC's recommendations?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I have already indicated to the House, and I believe somebody also suggested this previously, that I should like to go a little further and have someone not involved in the Department of Transport empowered to inquire into this kind of accident so we can ensure that all precautions are taken. I cannot establish a time limit, but we are trying to do this as fast as we can.

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ENERGY

OIL EXPORT TAX—COMMUNICATION TO PROVINCES OF LEGAL OPINION THAT THEIR SHARE NOT SUBJECT TO EQUALIZATION

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who stated in the House yesterday that he has received a legal opinion that the provincial share of receipts from the oil export tax are not subject to equalization. May I ask the minister whether he has communicated this legal opinion and the position of the federal government to the provinces, and whether any province has disputed that position?