

Oral Questions

It is certainly true that the trade offices in Europe are attempting to put forth the correct picture of forest practices in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada, to follow the same types of processes as they have done in the past with respect to other Canadian products under attack in Europe, and at least to set the record straight.

Once again, we do not expect German or any European authorities to adopt Draconian restrictions on freedom of speech simply to prevent the debate that may be taking place at the present time between some group and some industry. That is not our intention and we will make no representations to that effect.

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[Translation]

DEMOCRACY IN MEXICO

Mr. Mark Assad (Gatineau—La Lièvre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Following the assassination of presidential candidate Luis Colosio, does the Canadian government still have confidence in Mexico's stability?

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Foreign Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I would like to express the condolences of the Canadian people, as the Prime Minister did yesterday, to the Mexican people for this senseless act. I am sure that I speak on behalf of all parliamentarians as well as Canadians when I offer our most heartfelt condolences to Mr. Colosio's family, to his colleagues in the Mexican government and to the Mexican people following this really unacceptable act.

I think that the President of Mexico and his government are dealing with this terrible situation calmly and courageously. To answer the hon. member's question, the Canadian government is still confident in Mexico's stability and in the desire of the Mexican government to pursue a more democratic political system.

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● (1455)

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On top of contradicting himself daily regarding the Ginn Publishing transaction, the Minister of Canadian Heritage still refuses to make public all the documents related to this transaction, including the legal opinion on which he relied to approve the transaction.

My question is for the Minister of Canadian Heritage. How can the minister seriously claim that a legal opinion from the Department of Justice can include some confidential Cabinet discussions? How can he seriously make such a claim?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): Because it is a fact, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata): Mr. Speaker, does the minister agree that the only way to preserve what credibility he may still have regarding this issue is to order a public inquiry, so that we can find out exactly what happened?

Hon. Michel Dupuy (Minister of Canadian Heritage): Mr. Speaker, I have already expressed my opinion several times on this, and that opinion has not changed.

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[English]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I want to make it absolutely clear that I am not questioning the value of bilingualism but the practice and the cost of official bilingualism as mandated by the Official Languages Act.

Government officials have told me that they are not allowed to report the true costs of conforming to the rules of official bilingualism.

I would like to ask a question of the Acting Prime Minister. Will the government commit to an open debate in the House on the true cost of official bilingualism with full disclosure by all government departments so that we can settle the question of cost of bilingualism once and for all?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, these matters come before the relevant parliamentary committees during the studies of the estimates that relate to the official languages policy. In particular, the programs for which the President of the Treasury Board is responsible are studied by the relevant committees.

Finally, these matters are before the public accounts committee. I invite the hon. member to come there to get the facts and find that what he has been told by unknown sources is not correct.

Mr. Randy White (Fraser Valley West): Mr. Speaker, I happen to be on the public accounts committee and what the public accounts committee deals with are the direct costs. I am referring to the indirect costs as well.

Since it is business as usual across the way, I wonder if the government intends to continue with the \$5,000 grant to the Canadian Kennel Club to promote bilingualism. Is it a part of the government's bilingualism policy to train English sheep dogs and French poodles to communicate with each other?

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Government in the House of Commons and Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker,