

● (1450)

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****PROPOSED CLOSING BY UNITED STATES OF THREE POINTS OF ENTRY TO CANADA ON ST. CLAIR RIVER—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

**Mr. W. C. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of reports that the United States is considering closing three ports of entry on the St. Clair River between Canada and the United States, what action has the government taken to keep these ports open, bearing in mind that a great deal of the transportation from the American and Canadian industrial heartland crosses by way of the ferries over the St. Clair River?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I have no information on that point but I will be happy to inquire and advise the hon. member.

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[Translation]

**HARBOURS****PROPOSED DEEP SEA PORT AT GROS CACOUNA—DATE OF COMPLETION OF STUDY**

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the hon. Minister of Regional Economic Expansion.

In view of the fact that the Gros Cacouna Harbour Development Committee has been waiting a long time for the results of a study made by the government, I should like to ask the hon. Minister whether the study on the possible development of a deep-water harbour has been completed, and whether Gros Cacouna is still the possible site for the carrying out of this project.

[English]

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Perhaps the hon. member is unaware of this, but two weeks ago or thereabouts the report was tabled here in the House of Commons. I sent copies to the government of Quebec, so there is total freedom as far as they are concerned to distribute it as they see fit. This applies to the other provinces in the Atlantic region. On the second point, the report, as I believe I said in my statement at the time of its release, refers to all five perhaps even six choices, and it will be up to each of the provinces concerned to take the next step and decide what initiatives they wish to undertake.

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[Translation]

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS****REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE FOOD AID REACHES THOSE IN NEED**

**Mr. F. A. Philbrook (Halton):** Mr. Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity of speaking for the first time in the House and I congratulate you for your appointment as Speaker.

*Oral Questions*

[English]

On the basis of many years personal experience and interest in the developing countries, I should like to address this question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In the light of recent public reports on the difficulties of foreign food aid delivery, including such disturbing problems in the receiving countries as spoilage, misuse and maldistribution of donated food, can the minister advise the House whether satisfactory progress is being made in arranging firm and effective safeguards to minimize this problem and maximize the relief of hunger through deliveries of Canadian food, especially in Bangladesh?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** The High Commission has undertaken a revision of its arrangements to ensure that food unloaded in Bangladesh and distributed through various depots in the country reaches the destinations intended. We have assigned an individual in the High Commission to follow the distribution of food aid closely and to determine that it reaches the proper destination.

In addition, Canada has informed the government of Bangladesh that the recent \$20 million worth of food pledged is conditional upon that government developing a more effective system of distribution to those parts of the country where the grain is most needed. I may say in conclusion that the most serious form of smuggling which occurs in Bangladesh exists in the border areas. The government of Bangladesh has been informed that the effectiveness of its measures to control this form of smuggling, particularly in locally-grown rice, will determine to some extent, or will certainly be relevant, to the nature and level of further Canadian assistance.

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**HEALTH****GROUND BEEF—POSSIBLE PROSECUTION OF RETAILERS SELLING CONTAMINATED MEAT**

**Mr. John Rodriguez (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare; it is related to a question which was asked earlier. In view of a recent report of the presence of salmonella bacteria in ground beef, and since this is not the first time in the last two months that the presence of this kind of contamination has been discovered, can the minister tell us whether he intends to prosecute the offending retailers, and, if not, why not?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, we shall follow in these cases the procedure we have usually taken up to now in such instances. Upon detecting similar situations we immediately gave notice to the firm involved and if the offence was repeated we prosecuted them.

[English]

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Surely, the law provides for some sort of punishment in these circumstances. Can the minister not