

**Mr. Lawrence:** I did not hear the minister.

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** The answer is yes,

**Some hon. Members:** Why?

**Mr. Lawrence:** My question was why has it been held up?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** It has been held up on the advice of the Department of Justice.

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#### ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN MONTREAL COMPANIES IN  
CONNECTION WITH CONTRACT FOR DREDGING ST.  
LAWRENCE RIVER—POSSIBLE PROSECUTIONS

**Mr. Allan Lawrence (Northumberland-Durham):** My final question is to the Solicitor General, because I gather the RCMP has been seized of this matter at least since June of 1973, and the investigation has been taking place since that time. Would the Solicitor General inform us if the investigation has to his knowledge been completed and if charges or prosecutions are now pending.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Mr. Speaker, the investigation is still under way, and the RCMP is not ready at this time to lay charges or prosecute.

REASON FOR WITHHOLDING PAYMENT TO CERTAIN  
MONTREAL COMPANIES FOR DREDGING ST. LAWRENCE RIVER

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** I wonder if the Solicitor General could advise whether in fact one of the reasons for the non-payment of the \$21 million contract is that the government is waiting for the disposition of court proceedings in Hamilton.

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General):** Not to my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, but I will check on that.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** I must say that we should not deal with this matter. It is sub judice because the department is being sued to get this money.

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[Translation]

#### SPORTS

PROTEST AGAINST HIRING TEENAGERS TO PROFESSIONAL  
HOCKEY

**Mr. René Matte (Champlain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

Does the minister intend to intervene once more in the current dispute between the Junior Hockey League and the Professional Hockey League about players who are hired at 18; has he taken or does he intend to take any steps to oppose the hiring of Toronto Toros' Mark Napier, aged 18?

#### Oral Questions

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the two professional leagues involved and the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association have agreed on the content of the new contract signed between these leagues and the association. As for measures adopted by individual members of such and such a league, it is a matter that comes under the responsibility of the leagues involved.

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[English]

#### FISHERIES

FAILURE TO GET AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES ON WEST  
COAST SALMON—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State (Fisheries). In view of the problems Canada is now encountering in completing some kind of agreement on U.S. interception of the 1975 salmon catch on the west coast, and in view of the likelihood that without a change in the U.S. position there will not be an agreement in 1975, would the minister advise the House what plans his department now has to protect Canadian salmon stock from excessive U.S. interception this year?

**Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)):** Mr. Speaker, while recognizing that this problem is a long lasting one and a difficult one, I am not ready to arrive at conclusions which are as pessimistic as the hon. member indicated. There are meetings going on today in the Canadian group, and I will await the outcome of that.

**Mr. Leggatt:** In view of the reluctance of the United States to come to some agreement even on the present Canadian bargaining position, would the minister advise if it is his intention to withdraw from those negotiations and return to the principles agreed to in May of 1971 in which there would be an equality of interception of the total catch on the west coast rather than the present Canadian position? Also would the minister advise if he will seek the help of the Secretary of State for External Affairs so that we can put some pressure in to this bargaining situation and arrive at some solution?

**Mr. LeBlanc (Westmorland-Kent):** Mr. Speaker, those are suggestions which I will undertake to consider very carefully.

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#### AIRPORTS

CHARLOTTETOWN—REQUEST FOR DECISION TO CONSTRUCT

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. The question is not about the Pickering airport but in reference to an area where a new airport is both required and desired. Now that he has lightened his pack of problems, will the minister galvanize himself and his department and have construction begin on the already long delayed international airport at Charlottetown?