

Oral Questions

I wonder if the interdepartmental committee will be confined to Francophones, or will it deal with other aggrieved minorities? What country do we live in? Obviously, we know there are minorities who feel aggrieved at this moment because of the ethnocentric policies of the government of Quebec, and I want to know about that.

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I find the hon. member's question perfectly normal and sensible. This committee was set up by me the day before yesterday in response to a particular brief presented by the FFHG. Other briefs have been presented by other minority groups in Canada—multicultural groups, Indian and native groups and Eskimo groups. They have all been dealt with in a similar or parallel fashion. This particular group has been set up to look at this particular brief. Of course, other minorities will always have a hearing from this government and we will deal with them in the most appropriate way.

Mr. Paproski: I hope so.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**MAXIMUM CLAIM RESIDENT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA CAN MAKE AGAINST UNITED STATES IN EVENT OF OIL SPILL**

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the problems following a decision of the Kitimat Consortium to withdraw from the Kitimat line and the increase in tanker traffic which will be faced by the Gulf of Georgia. Could the minister advise the House as to the maximum claim a resident of British Columbia can now make in the event of a tanker spill in the Rosario Straits or in that gulf area? What is the maximum claim that the residents of British Columbia can make against the United States government as things presently stand?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I replied to an earlier question, I am sure the hon. member will understand I would prefer to get specific information than draw on my memory for an answer to that question. I will get it as soon as I can for the hon. member.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED STATES ON ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF CHERRY POINT BY OIL TANKERS

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): There are two routes which can be taken to avoid some of this extra tanker traffic in the gulf. I am sure the minister is aware of this. One is to offload at the Pacific port which does not affect the inside, or to take the surplus oil down to Los Angeles and ship it to the midwest through American territory. Has the minister, at any time, entered into joint negotiations with the United States to develop a west coast joint oil board so that the citizens of British Columbia can be protected in their inside

[Mr. Fairweather.]

waters? Second, has this government ever taken a positive step in encouraging the Los Angeles terminal as the logical alternative to putting British Columbia waters at risk?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, to be quite specific, I personally have not had those kinds of conversations since I assumed these responsibilities. Once again, in the interests of accuracy, I would like to check the records to see what discussions of that nature have taken place. I will respond as early as possible.

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TRANSPORT**POSSIBILITY OF AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES ON CONTROL OF TANKER TRAFFIC USING STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA**

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, while the minister is checking into the background of this, in terms of the regulations which control tanker traffic in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, at the present time Canada is spending some \$16 million in new radar installations which are not being installed on the United States side. Can the minister advise whether we have entered into any joint enforcement agreement or regulations in that strait? The Minister of Transport may be more aware of this. Can the minister advise whether we have come to any agreement with regard to joint enforcement of tanker regulations with the United States, since those tankers will be using both sides of the strait, coming in and going out?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, we have been making very good progress in that regard. We are confident we will have a full vessel management system in place.

[Translation]

LABOUR RELATIONS**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN FLOUR MILLS OF QUEBEC AND UNION**

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, my question was for the Minister of Labour, but as he is absent from the House just now, I shall direct it to the Prime Minister.

Some time ago, I asked a question in the House concerning the millers' strike in Quebec, and it seems that although the government appointed a mediator, the millers are still on strike because of their union's dilemma with the Anti-Inflation Act. Could the Prime Minister, or the Minister of Labour who has just joined us, advise the House how the bargaining involving these striking millers is progressing? Because I do not know whether the minister has heard my question, I shall repeat it.

[English]

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I met with the CSN yesterday afternoon in Montreal. We discussed the flourmill situation and some other matters. The CSN requested that my officers, with the Labour Depart-