

Oral Questions

HARBOURS

SCOTT REPORT—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON GRANTS TO MUNICIPALITIES WHICH HAVE COMMISSION PORTS

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. The minister is aware of the discrepancy that exists between the National Harbours Board and the commission ports and he knows the difficulties for those areas where commission ports are built. Could the minister inform the House as to the disposition of the Scott report and tell the House whether it contains policy regarding grants in lieu of taxes to local governments where such commission ports are in operation?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is very difficult to give a clear answer on this and I am sure you can understand why. We have a very difficult situation here—it is easy to make a joke of what I am saying but the problem is the following: we have 13 ports under the National Harbours Board jurisdiction; we have the same number of harbour commissions and we have from 15 to 2,000 ports—

An hon. Member: You have one hell of a mess.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier):—which depend on the marine administration of my own department. Then, we have ports with special status like those in Toronto and Hamilton and private ports like Seven Islands and Port Cartier among others. The situation differs from place to place. If you ask me whether the National Harbours Board has a general policy for all those ports the answer is no, Mr. Speaker.

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INDUSTRY

AUTOMOBILES—GOVERNMENT MEASURES TO AID PARTS INDUSTRY

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, which relates to the very serious situation in the automotive industry today. Since almost half the people employed in the automobile industry are employed in the parts sector and since this sector is particularly badly hit at this time, can the minister tell the House specifically what the government is planning to do to alleviate this critical situation?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, we have been trying to assist them to find new export markets. We have participated with them in a number of trade missions abroad and Canadian fairs abroad. There have been various delegations from other countries to Canada looking at Canadian parts manufacturing as a source of supply. We are trying to find as many new and varied markets as we can.

[Mr. Whelan.]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ENFORCEMENT OF MAINTENANCE ORDERS ISSUED BY FAMILY COURTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Justice I would direct my question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare and the subject also concerns the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. On March 25, 1974 I mentioned the fact that 75 per cent of all family maintenance orders made by Canadian Family Courts against deserting husbands are in default. These defaults cost the Canadian taxpayer \$365 million annually. In answer to my question during the adjournment debate the parliamentary secretary stated that this problem could be explored through the conference of uniformity commissioners on legislation which meets annually to examine ways and means of achieving uniformity in laws throughout the various jurisdictions. Can the minister now report to the House on the annual meeting and state what action is being taken to rectify this situation which has cost Canadian taxpayers close to \$1 billion since January 1, 1973.

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will be pleased to refer the hon. member's question to the Minister of Justice on his return to the House and the minister will then report.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED REFINERY AT EASTPORT, MAINE—GOVERNMENT POSITION ON USE OF CANADIAN WATERS TO DELIVER OIL

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In view of the continuing hearings being held by the environmental authorities in the State of Maine regarding the construction of an oil refinery at Eastport, Maine, and in view of the position taken by the Minister of the Environment on April 29, can the minister inform the House whether a message has been sent to the Secretary of State of the United States to indicate what use may be made of Canadian waters for the delivery of oil to the proposed refinery?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. friend has stated the application is presently before the board in Maine and to my knowledge no decision has been rendered. If the oil for use in the proposed refinery is to be carried through the Head Harbour passage, of course, the attitude of the government of Canada has been made clear to the government of the United States. We think that the hazard to the environment is so great that this would be a very unwise course of action.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Orders of the day. The hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North on a question of privilege.