● (1452)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, they have made a decision. The people returned from GATT last week, as the hon. member knows full well. If he wants it briefly, it is practically as the Tariff Board reported.

Mr. Murta: Mr. Speaker, do I have the assurance of the Minister of Agriculture that the government will be adopting the Tariff Board recommendations pretty much as they were outlined in their report to the government some time ago?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, that is what I said.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

OPINION THAT BILL C-28 CONTRAVENES PROVISIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board: it is supplementary to the question asked by the hon. member for Ottawa West with respect to Bill C-28. Is the minister aware that the human rights commissioner has expressed an opinion with respect to the fact that bill C-28 contravenes the provisions of the Human Rights Act in one particular respect? Has the minister seen that opinion? Is he studying it? Can he undertake to inform the House of the intentions of the government with respect to the opinion as to the impropriety of Bill C-28 as expressed by the chairman of the Human Rights Commission?

Hon. Robert K. Andras (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the chairman of the Human Rights Commission has written to the Minister of Justice expressing an opinion and some concern about a portion of one clause of the bill. As yet, I have not had legal advice from the Minister of Justice in response to that letter, although there were some important discussions prior to the receipt of the letter which indicated that there would not be a problem. I will be guided by the advice which I will receive very shortly, I presume, from the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, as the minister knows, one of the aspects is equal pay for equal work for women, and there is one other important aspect. So that the House will have the benefit of the opinion of the chairman of the Human Rights Commission, will the minister consider tabling the letter from the chairman to the Minister of Justice, now that it is public?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, of course, the official in question reports to parliament. I do not think there would be any inhibition, but I would question the propriety of us tabling the document. The hon. member is quite correct; it was published in the *Globe and Mail* the other day, so I do not think there is anything secret about it. I will take it under advisement. If that is the proper procedure, I have no objection.

[Mr. Murta.]

AIRPORTS

EDMONTON, ALTA.—CUSTOMS PRECLEARANCE CENTRE

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport: it concerns the fact that while this government is prepared to pump $50 million a year into a white elephant at Mirabel, it is not even prepared to discuss an offer by the province of Alberta to pay for the construction of a customs preclearance centre at Edmonton airport.

I ask the minister why he has refused to meet the Alberta minister of transport to discuss this offer. In view of the deficit the government has run up in creating the Mirabels and the Pickerings, why has this offer by the province of Alberta been refused? After all, it is free money for the government.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, both parts of the hon. member's statement are really quite ridiculous and are nonsense. The amount he talks about in relation to Mirabel—which I think he knows—is largely an interest payment being carried on the books, and not new money being pumped in.

An hon. Member: Answer the question.

Mr. Lang: If he wants to display his regional biases, he might mention the fact that we are putting $130 million into an airport in Calgary, and it is a beautiful airport, which has just been completed.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: The reason the second part of his question is nonsense is that if he is reading one press release, he might read the other. I have made it clear that we have not received a formal proposal from the minister of transport in Alberta to finance the construction at the Edmonton airport. I have made it clear that we are willing to consider that if such a proposal came forward. When I met the minister two weeks ago and talked about three other subjects, he did not even raise with me that matter of the Edmonton airport.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Paproski: Mr. Speaker, just to straighten the minister out, as of Friday he had not met the Alberta minister of transport on this particular project. It seems the so-called voice from Alberta in the cabinet is that pitiful squeak from what's-his-name.

Mr. Hees: That is "Loose Lips."

Mr. Paproski: Yes, that is his name. He cannot even get an audience for the Minister of Transport; that is the problem. I know the minister wants to use this as an election platform in the next campaign.

Mr. Speaker: Order.