

[Translation]

TRANSPORT

RESTRUCTURING OF TRANSPORT CANADA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport.

In view of rumours we have been hearing for some time that thousands of jobs are going to be cut at Transport Canada, that local activities will be consolidated and moved to regional offices, in Quebec that would mean they would be located in Quebec City, and considering the fact the House was expecting a statement by the Minister yesterday, when is the Minister going to announce his restructuring plan for Transport Canada, put an end to all these rumours, and reassure the workers of this Department?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, much of the innuendo, fear, and anxiety is being perpetuated by Members like the one who has just asked the question. I think it is very clear that in the November statement and in the Budget attempts were being made to reduce the overhead and, as much as possible, the cost of operations within the Department of Transport, and to ensure that we can provide adequate service to all regions of the country. A commitment was also made to ensure that there would be greater regional participation. I would be very pleased, Mr. Speaker, to elaborate further as I am appearing before the Standing Committee on Transport. If the Member attends there I will be very glad to give him a full explanation of all the details.

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I am not comforted by that answer. Every time the Minister of Transport tells me that I am paranoid, the next day exactly what I had feared would happen, happens.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mayer: Baloney.

An Hon. Member: So who's going to win the game tonight?

REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): I want to ask the Minister of Transport to answer the question and to make an announcement to clear up, for employees of Transport Canada and everyone else who is concerned about the reorganization of that Department, just exactly what is going on. When are we going to find out?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if the Member would try to ascertain the facts and stop going around the country spreading fear, anxiety, and innuendo—

Mr. Blaikie: I generally have the facts.

Oral Questions

Mr. Mazankowski: If he chooses to come to the standing committee tomorrow I will be very glad to answer in detail any questions that he has.

* * *

WAR MEASURES ACT

REASONS FOR INVOCATION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, 15 years ago today, on one of the blackest nights for civil liberties in Canadian history, Pierre Trudeau and John Turner proclaimed the War Measures Act.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: The last time they spoke to each other.

Mr. Robinson: In view of the fact that the Act remains unchanged on the books today and the documentation underlying this shameful decision remains secret, when will the Government repeal this repressive legislation used against innocent Quebecers and Japanese Canadians? When, Mr. Speaker, will John Turner finally come clean with Canadians as to why this was imposed?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order! This practice of referring to Members by name must stop.

Hon. Erik Nielsen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, in my view, subject as always to your correction of course, it does not lie within the ministerial responsibility of myself or the Government to account for the words or actions of the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Justice and is, word for word, identical to a question asked by the present Secretary of State for External Affairs to the previous Minister of Justice. "Will the Minister of Justice reveal to Parliament the reasons that the Government introduced the War Measures Act in 1970 and make public the information kept secret by John Turner so that Canadians can—"

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Robinson: That was the question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Robinson: I'm quoting the question.

Mr. Blaikie: It's a quote.

Mr. Speaker: Order!

Mr. Keeper: He can quote.

Mr. Speaker: Having asked the Member specifically to stop referring to Members by name, he persists. I must, therefore, go to the next Member. The Hon. Member for York West.