

Oral Questions

the people who require fish or other products for a protein diet in that area to guarantee that they will not be eating diseased fish?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, I cannot personally stop people from eating the fish caught locally, but the Ontario government should absolutely forbid even sport fishing in that area. As far as we are concerned, we did advise people not to eat that fish. We have taken steps, with the collaboration of the Ontario government, to have fish from other areas available. Further, commercial fishing in these rivers should be forbidden. There remains, however, sport fishing, which comes under the jurisdiction of the Ontario government. Once again, I hope that in the future months, the Ontario government will take the necessary steps.

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[*English*]

PUBLIC SERVICE**REASON FOR DELAY IN PAY ADJUSTMENTS FOR BIOLOGISTS**

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board regarding the biologists in the public service. In view of the fact that the biologists concluded their agreement on June 30, 1975, and the minister in a letter to me dated May 18 said that he would undertake to make sure their pay adjustments were made to them up to the Anti-Inflation Board levels, can the minister advise why these people after one year have still not received the pay increase to which they agreed.

Some hon. Members: Shame.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member has indicated, we have decided to pay them as much as the Anti-Inflation Board will allow. However, if the cheques have not been issued, I shall inquire immediately and report to the hon. member, because, if I remember correctly, the decision has been taken along these lines.

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[*English*]

AIRPORTS**MEASURES TO ENSURE UNIFORM APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING CARRY-ON BAGGAGE**

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. On March 31 last when I asked the minister about the lack of uniform application at different airports of safety regulations with regard to air passengers' carry-on baggage, the minister indicated that it was not a serious question and declined to answer it. In view of the current surge of interest in the topic of air traffic safety, I would now like to ask the minister whether steps have been taken during the past three months to assure uniformity of application of safety regulations at Canadian airports.

[*Mr. Malone.*]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, what was not serious was the way the hon. member asked the question on the previous occasion.

Mr. Horner: That is not for you to judge.

Mr. Lang: The department, of course, is endeavouring to see that regulations are enforced in a uniform way.

Mr. Clarke: Can we now assume that ground security for air passengers will be applied, when there is an opportunity, in a uniform manner throughout Canada?

Mr. Lang: I think the hon. member may recognize that a certain human element may still be involved.

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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE**AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT OF FUNDS TO CROWN WITNESSES—SOURCE OF FUNDS**

Mr. Stuart Leggatt (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General, and I gave him some notice of it this morning. My question deals with the case of Regina versus Palmer, in which a Crown witness received some \$25,000 for testifying. Could the minister now advise the House by what authority those funds were paid out and by whose authorization those funds are paid out to Crown witnesses in cases of this kind? I accept the fact that there is difficulty getting convictions in these drug cases.

Hon. Warren Allmand (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have not been able to get a precise answer to the question, but from time to time the RCMP and other police forces do pay informers for testifying in cases or providing evidence. In this particular case there is a dispute between a witness and the RCMP with regard to the amount paid, and that is going to court, so I do not want to comment on it any more. However, I will attempt to get more information.

Mr. Leggatt: While the minister is trying to find more information, would he determine whether the amount is \$25,000 or \$60,000, as alleged by the witness, and would he also advise the House as to the source of these funds in terms of whether those funds are directly from the public purse or another source the RCMP is using for paying witnesses in these kinds of cases?

Mr. Allmand: I know that in general these funds come from the public purse, and I approve a general amount each year for purposes such as this, investigation purposes, and so on. However, I will try to find out if there are other sources of funds.