

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I think the reason for the delay, as I attempted to explain in the House on several previous occasions, is the complexity of the negotiations with the province of Ontario. I do not say that in any critical sense. There is a great deal of data and documentation to be studied. I would hope that within a week or ten days I can meet with the responsible minister in Ontario to determine what areas are still uncertain in his mind with regard to federal participation and that we can move ahead from that point. I want to say categorically that there is no intention on the part of the government to retard in any way this particular development. It remains our determination and our intention to create in southwestern Ontario an additional airport facility at the earliest possible time.

Mr. A. D. Hales (Wellington): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister of Transport whether he has offered the Ontario officials the same cost-sharing arrangements that were offered the province of Quebec with respect to the new airport at Ste. Scholastique?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, the question, with respect, is hypothetical at the moment. I have indicated we are prepared to talk about participation at the federal and provincial level, that is, what input each would provide, but before that kind of discussion can be meaningful it is necessary to know the particular site that is to be employed because the costs will be determined largely by the site. I have communicated this to the province of Ontario and I will reinforce it in meetings within a week or so, I hope.

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Transport. Has the minister studied the remarks made by the Prime Minister with regard to the potential airport that is to be built?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, I have. I concur with what the Prime Minister has said in this regard in that if there is delay beyond 1975 there is no question that it will have an effect upon the division of air traffic within Canada, but I am confident we can meet that objective because it is our intention to keep Toronto a very important part of the aviation complex.

Mr. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, I have a further supplementary for the Minister of Transport. In saying that he agrees with the Prime Minister does he realize that puts him in the hole with the Prime Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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FINANCE**FARM IMPROVEMENT LOANS—EXTENT OF DEFAULTS AND SEIZURES**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. In view of reports of pressure on

[Mr. Danforth.]

farmers, particularly in western Canada, by the banks for payment for farm improvement loans where the security is a lien on the machinery purchased, would the minister inform the House whether he has inquired of the banks concerning the extent to which default has occurred on the part of farmers and seizures made by the banks, or how many of these loans have been transferred by the banks into other loan categories?

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I will have to take that question as notice.

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[Translation]

INDUSTRY**CHEMCELL LIMITED—MEASURES TO PREVENT CLOSING OF MONTMAGNY PLANT**

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Could the minister tell the House whether Mr. Malone, president of Chemcell Limited, has informed him of the project for closing this company's plant in Montmagny during the next few months?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, my department is aware of this proposed closing of the plant. We discussed it with Chemcell to try and find a solution, unfortunately without success. I want to point out that we are now examining the possibility of assisting workers affected by the closing, under the textile products act passed recently by this House.

Mr. Speaker: Does the hon. member for Bellechasse wish to ask a supplementary question?

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Yesterday, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, in his answer to this House, asserted that this company had not filed any application with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce for a grant to modernize its plant or make some improvements needed to stay in operation.

Mr. Pepin: I am aware of that, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion was absolutely right. We have here a kind of rationalization decided upon by the company with the hope of remaining competitive on both the domestic and the international levels.

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[English]

TRANSPORT**APPLICATION FOR RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICE ABANDONMENT AS PREREQUISITE TO REQUEST FOR SUBSIDY —SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF STATUTE**

Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Since the present legisla-