

Oral Questions

I have tabled it in this House yesterday afternoon. I therefore hope that the hon. member has had the opportunity to read it since then. The president of the advisory committee gave a news conference yesterday for the media on that subject. I am well aware of the main criticism made about that report, namely that in recent years the provinces other than Quebec have been given a preferential rate on the money they needed to borrow. It is a matter which I have raised previously in many speeches. Of course, any amendment in that regard would have to be discussed with the provinces since any such amendment will have a substantial impact on them and since it is impossible to amend the Canada Pension Plan without the consent of at least two thirds of the provinces making up two thirds of the population.

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[English]

AIR CANADA

STATUS OF REPORT OF ESTEY INQUIRY

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister in a position to report on the status of the Estey inquiry into the operations of Air Canada. Can he say whether the report is complete, whether he has seen it and can he advise when the report might be made public.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not have the report as yet and do not yet know on what date it will be received or when it will be possible to make it public. I understand that it is a fairly large report and that some further time is required for its final completion.

POSSIBLE REFERENCE OF 1974 ANNUAL REPORT TO COMMITTEE

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): May I ask the minister a supplementary question. In view of the fact that the annual report of Air Canada has not been considered by the Standing Committee on Transportation for a number of years, would the minister indicate to the House whether it is his intention to refer the 1974 annual report to the standing committee as soon as possible so that the matter might be followed up by the committee.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am certainly prepared to note the wishes of the committee in regard to the work they are doing. They were undertaking a fairly large piece of work in respect of the over-all transportation policy and a discussion with regard to the next steps in that would be useful.

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MANPOWER

USE OF VANCOUVER QUADRA LIP FUNDS FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS CONFERENCE—REQUEST FOR REPLACEMENT

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration.

[Mr. Lalonde.]

gration which concerns the Local Initiatives Program and the Habitat Conference. In view of the fact that the government has neglected to provide funds for the association in Canada serving organizations on human settlements, ACSOH, the agency responsible for providing facilities for the non-governmental organizations participating in the Habitat 75 Conference in Vancouver next year, with the result that 60 per cent of the LIP budget for Vancouver Quadra was recommended for these projects, will the minister consult immediately with his cabinet colleagues with a view to obtaining alternate federal funds for this international conference so that the residents of Vancouver Quadra will not be penalized by the effective removal of 60 per cent of their LIP allocation.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I will note the recommendation of the hon. member, but I would add that the primary objective of the Local Initiatives Program is to provide employment to people who would not otherwise be able to obtain it. Certainly, the validity of the project itself is very important; it is of prime importance. However, I will look into the situation.

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GRAIN

SUGGESTED DEFERRAL FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES OF INTERIM PAYMENTS

Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. The question is in respect of the recent announcement made by the Canadian Wheat Board. In view of the very excellent co-operation of prairie grain growers in responding to the call of the Canadian Wheat Board for stepped up deliveries of the new grain crop, would the minister respond by considering the suggestion that farmers be given the option of deferral of these adjustment payments, since current regulations do not permit deferral for tax purposes?

● (1150)

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the question has been put to me by many hon. members and by many farmers, however, not incorrectly as was the case yesterday in connection with the need to get deliveries of grain, which obviously is not in issue because it should be clear that the increase in initial price can in fact be deferred in relation to grain delivered after October 9 when the increase took place. The issue is therefore in regard to the adjustment payments on grain delivered prior to October 9. In the ordinary course, those payments would be received and would be a part of the income tax position of farmers. I think it may be difficult to think in terms of any kind of change in the law in relation to that, and the only possibility is whether the way in which the cheques are in fact delivered can alleviate the situation, and I am looking into that question.

Mr. Hargrave: I want to point out to the minister that my question did relate to the adjustment figures payment, of course, but does he not feel that the excellent delivery