Oral Questions

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will refer the hon. member's representation to the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, it is disappointing that there is no minister directly responsible. I will come back again to the Deputy Prime Minister and ask this question.

As I said, the report calls for a complete transformation of our understanding of security so that it is more than just military security, but also environmental, political, economic and social security.

Will the government accept the fundamental recommendation of this report and agree that our foreign policy in this country needs transformation now that the cold war is finally over?

Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, without responding directly to this report which has just been filed I can assure my hon. friend, as I indicated in the House last week and at committee yesterday, that I have asked the director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service to undertake a complete review as to Canada's security to make sure in the context of all of the changes that have taken place that our priorities are right and our resources are in the right places.

The government is aware of that aspect of my hon. friend's question. I do agree that there is an aspect of it that is within the purview of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. As the Deputy Prime Minister indicated, she will be addressing that report when she returns to the House.

AVIATION SAFETY

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have observed Question Period very carefully. I am appalled by the reaction of the government.

Here we have a report to the effect that the Minister of Transport of the day put ideology ahead of security and people died in a plane accident in Dryden. There is a tradition in this House that when an independent inquiry

blames a minister for his bad judgment he is to accept responsibility in this House.

I would like to know from the Deputy Prime Minister who was the then Minister of Transport: Does he accept the blame put forward by the judge today?

An hon. member: He is out of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Leader of the Opposition has put a question to a former minister. That is out of order. The hon. Leader of the Opposition may put the question again to the minister.

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I am asking a question of the leader of the government in the House today, the Deputy Prime Minister. When the government is blamed in a report like that, we need an answer from the government.

It so happens that the Deputy Prime Minister is the former Minister of Transport, but he is still the Deputy Prime Minister and the one who speaks for this government in this House today.

I want to know if this government will accept its responsibility and as the minister who was responsible for that disaster to face its—

Mr. Speaker: I must say to the hon. Leader of the Opposition it is still out of order. The hon. member for Kenora—Rainy River.

Mr. Robert D. Nault (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, if the government wants to know the impact of deregulation I suggest that the government speak to the regions of the country. In northern Ontario services have been cut, funding for airports has been reduced and, most important, safety has been allowed to be compromised.

I want to ask the Minister of Transport: How many more Drydens will it take before the government wakes up to the reality that public safety in this country has been sacrificed at the altar of deregulation?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I believe the member must have been writing his question rather than listening to the questions that were asked before his turn came about.

I have clearly indicated that in 1981 there were 700 accidents with less aircraft movements. In 1991 there were 449 accidents with five million aircraft movements in this country and over three million hours of flight.