

Mr. Lawrence: Obviously I could not until the individual pleaded guilty because the court case was in progress—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lawrence:—but the Solicitor General can do so now. Has he asked these questions?

Mr. Kaplan: I have asked for a briefing from the RCMP on their responsibilities in this matter and I am satisfied, on all the questions that the hon. member asked with respect to the RCMP, that their behaviour has been satisfactory.

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AIRPORTS

OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF NORTHERN AIRPORTS

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Prince Edward-Hastings): Madam Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Transport. Does he have any plans to remove those airports in Canada north of the 60th parallel from the ownership, control or otherwise of the Department of Transport?

● (1450)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, it is part of the policy that there can be the possibility of transfer of airports from the administrative jurisdiction of my department to the jurisdiction of the local territories. But if for practical purposes this should occur, my department would maintain its responsibility for the funding of these airports.

Mr. Ellis: My supplementary question is for the same minister. I must ask him if he feels that this will, in fact, improve or in any way better the safety of these airports.

Mr. Pepin: Madam Speaker, the transfer will not take place if the safety is impaired.

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REGULATORY REFORM

TASK FORCE REPORT—STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chuck Cook (North Vancouver-Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is for the President of the Treasury Board. After months of hard work, hearing from the private and public sector and from many government bureaucrats, the special task force on regulatory reform provided this House with its recommendations for regulatory reform on December 19. I would like to know from the President of the Treasury Board whether the government has taken any action with respect to the recommendations or whether it intends to take any action with respect to them. If not, why not? If it has done something, what has it done? And could we please have an answer to the question?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (President of the Treasury Board): Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate

him and the other members of the committee who delivered to us an excellent report. There were 29 recommendations contained therein which I had the opportunity to review over the Christmas break.

I can assure this House, Madam Speaker, that the government's commitment to regulatory reform is very solid. It is moving forward, and moved forward even during the time in which the report was being prepared. We are confirmed in our efforts by the tone of the report. In areas such as process, to which the report directs its attention, we are looking very seriously at each and every one of the recommendations. We have already developed a work plan in that particular area, as well as in the area of cleaning up the regulations. We must ensure that those regulations which are duplicative and outmoded can be eliminated. This would also involve statutes. Hopefully I will be able to bring forward a bill in the relatively near future to try to clean up some of the statutory duplications in other areas where these provisions are outmoded.

In addition, we are looking at the area of process, with which the report deals extensively. We are also looking carefully at such things as, perhaps, a regulatory agenda and other matters of that nature. I have already written to my colleagues in the cabinet, and I have sent to those whose departments are concerned with regulations a proposed work plan. I wish to assure the hon. gentleman and members of this house that not only is the report not gathering dust, but it is moving forward at an accelerated pace. Again I want to thank the committee for the efforts it made during such a brief period of time.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

UNITED STATES AID TO EL SALVADOR

Miss Pauline Jewett (New Westminster-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. With the United States having now decided to supply lethal military aid to the increasingly repressive junta in El Salvador, in direct violation of last year's United Nations resolution which Canada supported, will the Prime Minister express now in the clearest possible terms this country's opposition to American military support of the junta? Will he, in his anticipated meeting with President-elect Reagan, a meeting which he alluded to earlier in the question period as being a real possibility, voice our grave concern with respect to American military intervention in El Salvador?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Madam Speaker, I certainly hope that the agenda would permit President-elect Reagan and myself to discuss such areas of regional concern to both of us.

I had occasion to talk about this matter very recently in Mexico. My understanding is that the United States is not at this time supplying military hardware to the junta and that it is re-establishing some of the bilateral aid programs which had been interrupted. If I am misinformed on the United States