

Mr. Wenman:—why have you not presented this to the House? When will you do so, who is stopping you from presenting this to the House?

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. In addition to reminding the hon. member that his question is argumentative, I might point out I have refrained from reminding hon. members of the fact that all questions and remarks in this chamber are traditionally put to the Chair and not directly to the person who is being questioned. I refrained from doing that at the beginning of the session in order to allow hon. members time to acquaint themselves with the procedures, but it might be well now to remind hon. members of that.

Mr. Wenman: Through you, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister to answer my question.

[Translation]

Mrs. Sauvé: Mr. Speaker, I am terribly sorry, but I was busy giving the document to the messenger and I really did not hear the beginning of the question. I wonder if the hon. member would mind repeating it or rather shortening it.

[English]

Mr. Wenman: In view of the fact no government policy has been stated in the House regarding the use of Canada's fresh water supplies by the United States, and in view of the fact that you have and are aware of—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Wenman:—a firm policy statement on the export of Canadian water prepared and in your files, why have you not—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Wenman:—presented this to the House and when will you do so?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Later:]

Mrs. Sauvé: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that we have no policy for the export of water to the United States.

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AIRPORTS

PICKERING—PURPOSE OF COMMISSION OF INQUIRY—REASON FOR ADVERTISING POSITIONS AT AIRPORT

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. May I ask the minister whether the purpose of the Airport Inquiry Commission's hearings was to determine, in light of any new evidence, whether or not a second international airport was needed for the Toronto area. If this is the case, can the minister then explain why advertisements for positions at the new airport facility have appeared in various newspapers when the commission has not yet submitted its final report?

Oral Questions

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I missed the first part of the question. It obviously refers to the airport at Pickering. Of course, I still do not have this report. I will not have it before the end of December.

Mr. Beatty: As the minister missed part of my question, Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether I might be permitted to repeat it. May I ask the minister whether the purpose of the Airport Inquiry Commission's hearings was to determine, in light of any new evidence, whether or not a second international airport was needed for the Toronto area. If this is the case, can the minister then explain why advertisements for positions at the new airport facility have appeared in various newspapers when the commission has not yet submitted its final report?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, the terms of reference of the commission have been tabled in the House. It is not up to me to interpret them. I think the hon. member can do that himself.

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TRANSPORT

RAILWAY BRANCH LINE ABANDONMENT—CONSULTATIONS WITH PROVINCES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Has the minister decided to continue the moratorium on rail branch line abandonment? If not, has any decision been made and what is it?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, no decision has yet been made. It will have to be made very soon because we are committed to maintaining the branch lines until December 31. Therefore, we will have to make a decision very shortly.

● (1440)

Mr. Paproski: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. It has been reported that the government will consult with the grains council on which lines will be abandoned. Has the government also agreed to hold extensive talks with the provincial governments on any rail line abandonments, and has the government agreed in principle to provide financial assistance to the provinces for highway improvements which would be required in the event that the railways were shut down?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, this decision has to be made by the Governor in Council. The Minister of Justice, who is responsible for the Wheat Board, made some formal statement on this and I think he is the one who can probably answer the hon. gentleman's question.

POSSIBLE REVIVAL OF RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE IN NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I have a question that is supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Edmonton Centre. In