Oral Questions

AIR TRANSPORT

REQUEST FOR MORE INSPECTORS AT TORONTO TO TAKE CARE OF BACKLOG OF WORK

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. I hope when the office is open again the minister will give consideration to having more inspectors in Toronto to look after the backlog of aircraft that are grounded. Perhaps they could be transferred temporarily from some of the more remote offices where they are not overworked.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would be delighted to be able to do that but unfortunately backlogs exist almost everywhere. I hope when we get back to normal operation some provision may be made for some extra time and special efforts in order to catch up the backlog.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

REPORT FROM UNITED STATES ON KILLING OF ANNA MAE AQUASH—STATUS OF INVESTIGATION IN UNITED STATES AND AVAILABILITY OF RESULTS

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of the fact that the Canadian government is said to have received a report from the United States government concerning the killing of Anna Mae Aquash in the United States, can the minister tell the House whether such a report has been received and if so, what information was contained in it?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, from the State Department we received a report prepared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the circumstances surrounding the autopsy and identification of the person in question, as well as an explanation of the procedures that were employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. From memory I can recall that the Federal Bureau of Investigation said that it did use procedures in the identification which were clearly used in similar circumstances and of course at a time when it was impossible to know the identification and obviously the citizenship of the person in question. Subsequently, Anna Mae Aquash turned out to be Canadian. Nevertheless, at that time that fact was not known to the United States authorities. In addition I should comment that the United States authorities are continuing their investigation into the circumstances of what is now considered to be death by foul play.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question and may I first thank the minister for his answer. The Mountain States Regional Office of the United States Commission on Civil Rights, an agency which reports to the President and Congress on matters relating to human rights, recently stated in an internal memo that there is sufficient credibility in reports reaching that office to cast doubts on the propriety of actions of the FBI and to raise questions about the impartiality and focus of their concern. In view of this and the fact that the minister stated the United

States Attorney General has launched an investigation into this incident, can the minister inform the House whether he is aware of the status of the investigation at the present time and if the Canadian government has received assurance from the United States authorities that the findings will be made available to this government?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to advise the hon. member on the state of the investigation but I shall follow up the second part of the question.

SUPPLY AND SERVICES

DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVE ON MANAGEMENT BOARD FOR PURCHASE OF LONG-RANGE PATROL AIRCRAFT—MR. STOPFORTH'S NEW DUTIES

Mr. Peter C. Bawden (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Supply and Services? In view of the costly blunders made by his department in the LRPA program to date, can the minister tell the House what steps he has taken to reorganize his department? Specifically who is the department's representative on the LRPA management board, who is the replacement for Mr. Stopforth and at the same time, could he tell the House what Mr. Stopforth's new duties are?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I really cannot see the need to accept the suggestion of the hon. member. As for the representative of the department on the board of management, he was appointed by the deputy minister according to the normal procedure.

• (1500)

ROYAL ASSENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the following communication has been received:

June 29, 1976

Sir

I have the honour to inform you that the Hon. Wishart F. Spence, O.B.E., Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 29th day of June, at 5.45 p.m. for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant, Edmond Joly de Lotbinière Administrative Secretary to the Governor General.

[English]

Order, please. With respect to the order of the day, hon. members will notice that by special order of the House a copy of a special addendum to today's order paper has just been distributed. It is a collection of report stage amend-