

House today. However, I think my hon. friend is asking me to reply, so I will do that. I do not know the particular answer. I do know that the Government has had a long experience—

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** If you don't know the answer, then sit down.

**Mr. McInnes:** I can only assume—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Regina West.

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## AIRPORTS

### FIRE-FIGHTING SERVICES

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I have questions for the Minister of Transport. Last night, *W5* reported fire-fighting services at airports as being dangerously inadequate. A year ago in June I asked the former Minister about the purchase of 75 new fire trucks. He told me that the funding had been reprofiled. We have 150 fewer fire-fighters at work today than we had then. What action is the Minister of Transport taking to put those fire-fighters back to work? Where are the 75 new trucks?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the trucks referred to are on order and under construction.

**Mr. Benjamin:** For the last three years?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Not for the last three years. There are 34, as I recall, under construction under one contract, and 34 under construction under another contract. They are rapid intervention vehicles. Six other all-terrain vehicles are under construction as well. That makes up the total.

● (1500)

There has been no change in the number of personnel employed in the crash-fire rescue service. I think there are something like 650 people employed in that service at 60 sites across the country. The service is costing the people of Canada around \$40 million a year. There was a change made this summer with respect to overtime rules, and that aggravated or irritated some of the personnel concerned who were not getting as much overtime as they had been getting previously.

I would like to assure the hon. gentleman that I have looked into this carefully with personnel in the Department. I am satisfied that our service is adequate, and I would say even more than adequate when compared to the U.S., Australian or other crash-fire services.

## Oral Questions

### AIR TRANSPORT

#### SERVICES PROVIDED FOR AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER ARCTIC

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask the Minister what action the Ministry of Transport is taking to replace services being cancelled by the Department of National Defence for commercial aircraft transiting the Arctic. These services include course, speed, altitude and ground speed checks, and aviation weather information *en route*. What alternative organization will provide those services for commercial aircraft in northern Canada and across the Arctic?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice because this is the first time it has been brought to my attention. I can assure the hon. gentleman—

**Mr. Benjamin:** DND didn't tell you?

**Mr. Crosbie:** They have not told me personally. I would imagine, though, that if that has happened, our Department would be fully informed and there would be other services in its place. Just to reassure the hon. gentleman, I will have that looked into and get back to him.

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## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

### SECURITIES INDUSTRY OWNERSHIP—INQUIRY CONCERNING INTRODUCTION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY

**Miss Aideen Nicholson (Trinity):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State for Finance and concerns last week's announcement by the Ontario Government of its plans to open up ownership of the provincially regulated securities industry to other financial institutions. The Government, after two years of study, still has no policy on ownership and no new legislation on financial institutions.

Does the Minister not think that Canadians deserve better? Will he at least tell us the calendar year in which the Government will assume some leadership?

**Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member knows that that province made its intentions and aspirations known with regard to one element of financial institutions, that being the securities industry. We are now preparing a comprehensive approach to financial institutions. We will be bringing in that policy very, very shortly.