

be a terrorist act in the province of Quebec. That suggestion is quite new to me.

Mr. Cossitt: Having had very little luck with an answer in that regard, Mr. Speaker, I will direct my supplementary to the Minister of Justice, who I hope can be a little more direct. Is the government prepared to name the companies, along with their locations, which have been receiving large sums of money from abroad for the promotion of terrorist and guerrilla warfare activities in Canada, and will he tell the House what part the French, Cuban and Russian intelligence services have played in this situation?

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): No, Mr. Speaker, we would not reveal names unless and until charges were laid or people were expelled from the country.

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AIR TRANSPORT

CRASH OF AIRCRAFT AT CRANBROOK, B.C.—REQUEST INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER INQUIRE INTO CAUSE

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Minister of Transport. It is in a very serious vein and arises out of the Standing Order 43 motion which was put to the House by my colleague, the hon. member for Vegreville. I would like to ask the minister whether he is prepared, now, to indicate if he will appoint a member of a senior court of competent jurisdiction to inquire into the relevant facts surrounding the tragic air accident which occurred in Cranbrook, B.C., over the weekend.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the ordinary procedure is to have a preliminary investigation first. This is now taking place. Of course, we do have an independent accident review committee which also could play a role. At the conclusion of the preliminary examination, I would ordinarily be in a position to decide whether a further investigation of the type to which the hon. member refers is necessary.

Mr. Forrestall: In light of the fact there has been a clear indication from the government of Canada, referring back to the throne speech of 1974, that sometimes members of the opposition do have constructive ideas to put forth, I ask whether the minister could be spurred on by these events to bring in legislation—which we understand is pretty well drafted—to establish an independent commission of inquiry into all modes of transportation accidents, so as to ensure removal of any potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, yes. As the hon. member implied, there may not be grounds for concern in this particular case. But wherever that might occur, because of the relationship between Transport as an operating department and as the investigating body, we have put forward a proposal for an independent review board. That proposal is at the discussion stage and was put before involved members of the public and

Oral Questions

industry. Their comments are coming back now and the drafting is going forward at the same time. I hope at a very early date to bring forth legislation.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

B.C. TELEPHONE DISPUTE—PRESENT SITUATION

Mr. Jack Pearsall (Coast Chilcotin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Labour. Can the minister advise us what the situation is regarding the B.C. Telephone labour dispute that has been going on for a number of months between workers and management?

An hon. Member: It was settled last week.

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): I am very happy to answer that question, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the hon. member for Nickel Belt will be interested to know, in view of his partisan remarks last week, that the strike is settled. Some workers turned up for work today, and all employees will be back on the job within three days.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

LEGISLATION TO EXTEND PROVISIONS OF PENSION ACT RESPECTING PRISONERS OF WAR—WIDOWS' PENSIONS

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs? In view of the fact that when the House, on Friday, gave unanimous consent to a motion calling for an extension of the prisoner of war compensation to include veterans of World War I and some others, the minister himself joined in that consent, can he now confirm to the House that there will be legislation at this session to amend the Pension Act to extend the prisoner of war coverage? While he is answering that question, can he also say whether any such legislation to amend the Pension Act will also restore the basic rate of the war disability pension to the average take-home pay level of the five categories in the public service agreed to in 1973?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the first part of the hon. member's question is presently before the government and I expect to have some information before too long. As to the second part of the question, no, we are not considering that legislation at this time but it will be looked at at a later date.

● (1442)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since the department is studying amendments to the Pension Act, will it consider including in any such amendments at this session a provision for prorata pensions for the widows of veterans, where the veteran's pension at the time of death was less than 48 per cent, as