

Mr. Nystrom: Is the hon. gentleman's department preparing legislation to implement some of the recommendations of this commission as soon as possible?

Mr. Olson: We are taking the findings and recommendations of the commissioner very seriously.

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): In a previous report the Barber Commission recommended that an investigation into farm machinery prices be undertaken under the Combines Investigation Act. Will the minister initiate such an investigation now without waiting for the final report?

Mr. Olson: I would think that question should be directed to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. If my memory serves me correctly, the minister indicated that he was considering that course several months ago.

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): In view of the fact that this report was anticipated several years ago and that since then inflation has thrown an entirely different light on the value of any final report which may be presented, is the minister prepared to set up another commission to determine the extent to which the situation has changed?

Mr. Olson: No, Mr. Speaker.

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AIR TRANSPORT

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN AIR CANADA AND EASTERN PROVINCIAL AIRWAYS RESPECTING ROUTES

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): My question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister in a position to inform the House concerning any negotiations between Air Canada and Eastern Provincial Airways regarding air routes between Montreal and the Atlantic provinces and within the Atlantic provinces in consequence of which present Air Canada routes would be transferred to EPA?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, not in a specific sense, although, of course, as I have reported to the House on previous occasions, Air Canada is carrying on discussions with a number of regional carriers throughout the country with a view to the rationalization of the route structure. I do not know of any specific plans or talks at the present time, but I shall be glad to make inquiries.

Mr. Coates: Has the minister examined the recent Air Canada schedule relating to these routes, a schedule which sets back many years the type of service which has been available within the Atlantic provinces, and will he endeavour to secure the reinstatement of the type of service which was available up to April 24?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member's supplementary is in the form of a representation and he has to assume it has been noted.

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

AIRPORTS

POSSIBLE CLOSING OF MURRAY BAY AIRPORT

Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

I learned during the weekend that in view of a new policy of the Department of Transport which is no longer willing to make up deficits of local airports, the Murray Bay airport would be closed next summer thus causing considerable loss to the tourist industry in the Charlevoix constituency.

Does the minister intend by such a procedure to express a new policy of the Department of Transport under which municipal airport deficits would no longer be made up?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, there has not been a major change of policy yet with regard to assistance in the establishment of the type of airport to which the hon. member refers. We are working on one with the objective of making a greater amount of assistance available. If the hon. member would care to give me the details of this particular case I would be glad to look into the matter and report.

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NATURAL RESOURCES

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROVINCES ON OFFSHORE MINERAL RIGHTS—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): I wish to direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister. Is the Acting Prime Minister in a position today to answer the question I raised with him yesterday concerning the state of negotiations between the federal government and the provinces on the subject of offshore mineral rights? I would also ask the minister whether legislation on this important matter will be laid before the House before the end of this session?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I regret I am not in a position to answer today. I will see whether an answer can be got for tomorrow.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TIME OF CONFERENCE ON LAW OF THE SEA—GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES RESPECTING MARINE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): I wish to ask the Secretary of State for External Affairs what the latest position is with regard to the possibility of a conference on the law of the sea being held within a reasonable period. Is there still a possibility of this conference being held in 1973 as was indicated some weeks ago?