

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): The minister will not be here tomorrow.

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AIR TRANSPORT

HIJACKING—AMENDMENTS TO CRIMINAL CODE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): My question is for the Minister of Justice. In light of the fact that on December 15, 1970, Canada signed The Hague convention with reference to air piracy, and in view of the fact that there is a vacuum in the Criminal Code regarding the laying of proper charges in Canada in this respect and, furthermore, in view of the fact that the other western nations which signed The Hague convention have brought in legislation regarding air piracy, when will the minister be bringing forth a bill?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): In speaking about the introduction of legislation I said yesterday "very soon", or words to that effect. I may say it is my understanding that charges will be laid against the man in Calgary. There are available charges for unlawful interference with an aircraft in flight as well as kidnapping and so on under the Criminal Code. We have not been standing still. We have signed The Hague convention. We have also signed an international treaty in Montreal involving other offences against aircraft, including sabotage. We have negotiated a treaty with Cuba, an extradition treaty involving hijacking, and we are prepared to sign a treaty with the United States involving hijacking.

Mr. Woolliams: May I say with the greatest respect to the minister that it has been a year since we signed The Hague convention. Would he now refer Bill C-231, which I presented almost a year ago, to the officers of the Crown and if they approve it—it is drawn up in line with The Hague convention—would he then bring it forth as a government measure so that we will have some law in this land regarding air piracy?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): We will soon have some law. I want to draw to the attention of members of the House that when you deal with a matter such as hijacking, it is essential that both domestic and international law move forward together, and we have been moving them forward together.

Mr. Speaker: We are running short of time and I ask for the co-operation of hon. members to limit supplementary questions. These important subjects might be revived tomorrow. For the moment, I will recognize the hon. member for Surrey-White Rock.

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INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister which arises from a statement he made earlier in the question period relating to the government's concern and its intention to stop leaks of cabinet information to the press. In doing that, I wonder whether the government would consider allowing more cabinet information to leak to the House?

Inquiries of the Ministry

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[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE PROSPECTIVE SPRING BUTTER SHORTAGE

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, I would like to direct my question to his Parliamentary Secretary.

Can he indicate whether the Department of Agriculture and the Canadian Dairy Commission have taken steps to import butter in order to alleviate the shortage anticipated for next spring?

Mr. Marcel Lessard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, according to the answer given by the Minister of Agriculture to the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar on November 4, it is anticipated that the stocks of butter might not be adequate this winter and that it might perhaps be necessary to import that commodity in order to meet the consumption for eight or ten days.

And to clarify the minister's answer, I want to add that he meant it would take several weeks before we need to import butter. However, there is presently a world shortage of butter and in order to supply the Canadian market, the Canadian Dairy Commission is taking measures to make some imports—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I think such an answer aims at giving the House general information and I remind the parliamentary secretary that such a statement should normally be made on motions.

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): May I ask a supplementary, Mr. Speaker?

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[English]

CANADIAN COASTGUARD

POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF COLLEGE—EFFECT ON EMPLOYMENT IN CAPE BRETON

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): My question is for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister in a position today to announce that the Canadian Coastguard College will be retained in its present very suitable location and will also include expanded training facilities?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I have great difficulty in giving such an assurance today to the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys, because I have not yet had an opportunity to give thorough study to the representations of his colleague, the hon. member for St. John's West, who wants me to move it to Argentina.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Muir: The fact that we have information the minister is considering removing the college from Sydney is probably the reason my colleague is interested, and I do not blame him. Now, may I pose a supplementary question? Could the minister advise the House whether he, himself, the government or anyone else in the Department of Transport has plans to remove, now or in the future,