

respect of expertise in this matter, but I will scrutinize the statement referred to in the hon. member's request.

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● (1450)

### AIR TRANSPORT

#### REQUEST FOR OPENING OF NORTHERN AIRSTRIPS TO CLASS III OPERATIONS DURING WINTER MONTHS

**Mr. Cecil Smith (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Several remote communities in northern Manitoba are serviced by air only. In July, five airstrips were closed to class III operations, which has restricted the movement of patients to hospital. At present, patients are being moved by charter only. Because of the high cost factor, patients are having to wait long periods to receive medical attention. Will the minister consider the opening of these five airstrips to class III operations for the winter months?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, we have been looking at the thorny question of certain airstrips in Manitoba which are substandard for certain types of operations and have not been able at this point to arrive at a conclusion which would allow that kind of operation within the ordinary bounds of safety. We will go on looking at the question, although I think the prime responsibility for bringing those airstrips up to standard should be mainly that of the builder, which is the government of Manitoba.

**Mr. Smith (Churchill):** My supplementary question is also to the Minister of Transport. The airstrips which are closed are now serving Indian reserves in northern Manitoba and Indian reserves are the responsibility of the federal government. I would ask the minister to consider that the airstrips were closed for summer operations and that the winter operation of airstrips is quite different in the remote frozen north.

**Mr. Lang:** I am quite aware of that. I am also aware of the fact that emergency circumstances may make landings necessary which ordinarily would not be considered safe. I think, therefore, that is taken care of, but that will not allow for regular operations.

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### AIRPORTS

#### MIRABEL—REASON FOR PAYMENTS TO CONSULTANTS FOR DESIGN OF RUNWAYS AND TAXIWAYS

**Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport, but first I should like to thank the minister for his written reply to my October 27 question confirming that the official Banaim list of consultants is correct in showing the Ministry of Transport as the only agency responsible for the design of airways, aprons and taxiways at the Mirabel airport. I wish to ask the minister whether he can explain why the answer to order paper question No. 2945 shows \$9,770,175.06 being

### Oral Questions

spent on outside consultants for the design of runways, aprons and taxiways at Mirabel airport.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to look at what the hon. member suggested.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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### VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### CAMP HILL HOSPITAL, HALIFAX—DATE OF TENDER CALL—POSITION OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs and it follows his discussion with the Nova Scotia minister of health. Has any decision been made regarding the date for a tender call for the reconstruction of Camp Hill hospital in Halifax and, if not, which government next has to make some decision before progress can take place?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, may I say in answer to the hon. member's question that the proposed Camp Hill hospital is at present in the hands of the government of Nova Scotia. They are looking over the project and we are awaiting their answer.

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### STORMS

#### DAMAGE IN GREAT LAKES REGION—REQUEST FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

**Mr. Roger Young (Niagara Falls):** My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Speaker. In view of the serious storms which struck the Great Lakes last Monday evening and in view of the serious wind and water damage which was left in its wake, has any consideration been given or will any be given to making federal emergency assistance or disaster relief available to the communities and individuals which were so hard hit?

**Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I think it is a fairly well accepted policy that where there is damage caused by natural disaster relief is primarily under provincial jurisdiction. However, in the event that circumstances are beyond the resources of the province—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

**Mr. Drury:** —the federal government has indicated on a formula basis its willingness to assist.

Some hon. Members: Cheap!