

*Oral Questions***TRANSPORT**SAFETY OF RAILWAY OPERATIONS—REQUEST FOR
STATEMENT ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF TRANSPORT
COMMISSION AND IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the serious implications of the report made yesterday by the Canadian Transport Commission, will the minister, after he and his officials have had an opportunity to look at the report which they only received yesterday, make a statement in the House as to how long it will take for the department to make a full study of the report and also advise what measures his department will take to implement the recommendations of the commission?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I actually received the report just this morning. I originally read of it in the newspapers. The department is studying the report immediately and will make recommendations to me. As this is of public interest, I am sure the report will be tabled and the hon. member will be informed of what steps we are going to take.

Mr. Orlikow: In view of the extreme reluctance of the railways in the past to make public any information about rail accidents, their causes and who was at fault, will the minister give special consideration to the possibility of instructing the railways, the Transport Commission and his department to make all information that comes to these bodies public so that proper steps can be taken to alleviate this condition?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I will do what I can. However, I am sure the hon. member knows I am quite restricted in the kind of orders I can give to the CTC. If ever the House and the government decide to change that, maybe I could be more precise.

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AIR TRANSPORTPROPOSED PASSENGER HEAD TAX—POSSIBILITY OF
SUBSTITUTION OF INCREASE IN USER CHARGES PAID BY
COMMERCIAL CARRIERS

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Transport indicate whether the deferment of the implementation of the airport head tax means that the government is seriously considering the alternative of raising the user charges to commercial air carriers at appropriate airports?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, it does not mean that.

Mr. MacKay: Will the minister assure the House that if the tax is implemented as originally proposed there will not be a further major increase in the originally announced figure of \$2.80, as has been suggested by the head of the Canadian Air Transport Association?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, as far as the Department of Transport is concerned, we do not expect another increase.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Finance. If the new tax legislation is yielding hundreds of millions of dollars of additional revenue over and above that forecast by the minister at one stage and the minister has an abundance of revenues, why is it necessary to institute this tax at airports at all?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The question as asked is argumentative. It is debate. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich and then the hon. member for Rimouski.

[Translation]

PROPOSED PASSENGER HEAD TAX—SUGGESTED
PERCENTAGE CHARGE ON SHORT FLIGHTS

Mr. Donald Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a supplementary of the hon. Minister of Transport.

I should like to ask him whether he and his colleagues are considering the possibility of approving a special charge, 5 per cent for instance, for short flights such as between Victoria and Vancouver rather than insisting on a single levy which lays a heavy financial burden on passengers using such flights?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, for the information of the hon. member, we had the choice between two formulas: a fixed charge which would protect the people at either end of the country or a percentage charge which would naturally protect short flight customers. Unfortunately, we have found no way of using both formulas at once and have decided to protect people who live far from the large centres, who would unfortunately pay considerable amounts under the percentage formula.

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ENERGYSUGGESTED RETURN TO DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME TO
CONSERVE ENERGY

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, with your leave, I wish first to congratulate most sincerely Mrs. Trudeau and the right hon. Prime Minister for the excellent timing of the birth of their two sons. Considering that some provinces, especially Ontario, have expressed the wish to return to saving time, does the Prime Minister intend to adopt a standard policy for the whole of Canada?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, first let me thank the hon. member, the leader of the opposition and other hon. members for their good wishes towards my wife and myself. We thank them most sincerely.

[English]

Mr. Alexander: Hurrah for Alexander!

[Translation]

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have chosen an excellent name, that of Alexander, but—