

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

HIJACKING OF WESTERN AIRLINES PLANE TO VANCOUVER —DEPARTMENTAL ACTION

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Justice; I gave him notice. It has reference to the American hijacker who, by means of threatening violence, diverted a Western Airlines Boeing 737 to Vancouver, which was flying from San Francisco to Seattle. What course of action is the Department of Justice planning and, if the American authorities seek extradition of the accused, will the minister and his department co-operate in this regard? Further, is the person in question in custody?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have the impression that the question has hypothetical overtones, but perhaps the minister might find some way to give some information that might be helpful to the hon. member and to the House.

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): I would be glad to deal with the question so far as the rules permit, Mr. Speaker. I received a preliminary report concerning the hijacking yesterday of a Northwest Airlines Boeing 737 while on a flight from San Francisco to Seattle. The flight terminated at Vancouver International Airport, and an individual is now in custody. A number of questions arise which may have to be determined as soon as I have an opportunity for a full examination of the facts and the opportunity to consult my appropriate colleagues in the cabinet.

The hon. gentleman mentioned the possibility of extradition. At the moment there has been no request for extradition by the United States government. I might say that the other alternatives I will have to consider are whether or not to consent to prosecution under section 5A of the Criminal Code. The government will also have to consider the possibility of deportation. But I think I can assure the hon. member and members of the House that this matter will be given immediate and careful consideration by the government.

Mr. Woolliams: Since this is a serious international problem and as there is a tremendous amount of commercial air travel between the United States and Canada, could the minister advise us whether he has had a chance to look into whether this crime of hijacking, to use a colloquialism, is covered by the extradition agreement between Canada and the United States?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): That is one of the factors that will have to be taken into consideration. I hope the hon. member will not ask me for a legal opinion.

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POLLUTION

SUGGESTED MEETING WITH NOVA SCOTIA MINISTER ON ACTION TO EXTINGUISH SPRINGHILL MINE DUMP FIRE

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester North): I have a question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and

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Resources. Yesterday in the Nova Scotia legislature the report prepared by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources on the Springhill mine dump fire was tabled, outlining ways and means of extinguishing that fire. Would the minister be willing to meet with the Nova Scotia Minister of Mines, who is also the minister responsible for pollution control, to determine what action might be taken by both the federal and provincial governments which would result in extinguishing the mine dump fire at the earliest possible date in view of the statement made in the report that the fire "is becoming an increasing hazard to the town environment"?

Hon. J. J. Greene (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): I believe the hon. member asked a similar question yesterday and I had my officials check into the matter. I am instructed that they received a copy of the proposal by Home Town Construction Ltd. only yesterday, Thursday, and they are currently studying its contents in relation to the technical report they have already prepared on the fire at Springhill. As yet they are not aware whether the Nova Scotia government has received a copy of this proposal. We would give an opinion on its merits to the provincial government based on our findings, but so far we have received no such request from the government of Nova Scotia. May I add that in all matters dealing with the Springhill dump fire my officers are in contact with the Department of Mines of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Coates: May I say for the minister's information that I am referring to a report that was forwarded to the Deputy Minister of Mines of Nova Scotia by T. E. Tibbetts of the coal and peat resources evaluation section of his department which relates to the examination of the mine dump fire conducted by his department for the Department of Mines of Nova Scotia. What I am now asking the minister is whether, on the basis of this report, he would be willing to meet with the Minister of Mines for Nova Scotia to determine how action can best be taken to extinguish the mine dump fire.

Mr. Greene: I am not sure how our report relates to the Home Town Construction Limited report.

Mr. Coates: It does not.

Mr. Greene: But I would be very pleased, as the hon. member suggests, to meet the mines minister from Nova Scotia if this would be of help.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE BREAK-UP OF COMMONWEALTH COMMITTEE ON SECURITY IN INDIAN OCEAN

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): My question is for the Prime Minister. I would like to preface it by saying that there appears to be intense diplomatic activity within the Commonwealth with regard to the future of the study group on security in the Indian Ocean arising out of the proposed British arms sales to South Africa—