

Oral Questions

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I have not made up my mind about when to comment on that issue because, obviously, I have not reached a firm conclusion on it. I just told the hon. member that I will be looking at the matter again in an early January meeting when I will meet once again with the senior people involved in grain handling and transportation. It would not likely occur to me to say very much definitively before then.

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CUSTOMS

RELOCATION OF TRAINING SCHOOL IN OTTAWA

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, my question is multibarrelled in that it may affect a number of ministers, but it is directed primarily to the Minister of National Revenue and the Minister of State for Small Business, as well as to the Minister of Public Works.

Is it the intention to move the customs training school to the quarters being vacated by the coastguard training school on Walkley Road? The Department of National Revenue has received an eviction notice from the Department of Public Works for the premises in the Daly building, effective the end of December this year. In approximately nine or ten months is it still the intention to move to Rigaud, Quebec, the whole being part of a decentralization program costing some \$10 million, the minister having clear evidence that the involved personnel do not want to move from Ottawa and the Walkley facilities being perfectly suitable and ample for their purposes?

Hon. A. C. Abbott (Minister of National Revenue and Minister of State (Small Business)): Mr. Speaker, I am not certain of the details of the hon. member's question.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Abbott: But I certainly know—

Mr. Hnatyshyn: Be mean.

Mr. Abbott:—that the school will be moved.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Abbott: My understanding is that it will be moved to Rigaud. I will leave it at that, rather than try to deal properly with any of the insolent remarks from over there.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister will address himself to one of those clear, concise memos, and not only his files, for the benefit of those of us in the House who are interested in the government's program of retrenchment. This would mean a saving of \$10 million in the coming year.

Mr. Abbott: Mr. Speaker, I hope I am able to get the information from my office before it is stolen by someone opposite.

[Mr. Murta.]

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hees: That is a mean thing to say.

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[Translation]

FISHERIES

JUSTIFICATION FOR TITLE "DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND OCEANS"

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister who is always designated in *Hansard* and in other places as the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment.

On November 30, a press release originating from his department used a terminology little known to date, namely that of Minister of Fisheries and the Oceans.

Is the minister prepared to tell the House what could justify this change and would he give an explanation as to the legal basis of such a terminology?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, I do not know the exact legal implications the hon. member is alluding to in his question. I will have to look into that matter. I was told there was no objection to use unofficially one title instead of the other.

I must say that if the hon. member refers to first reading of the legislation splitting the Department of Environment, he will note that its intent was precisely to give that title to the new department, namely "Fisheries and Oceans". Besides, it is to pinpoint the real autonomy, if not in the still official statute, of the minister responsible for environment in relation to myself and to indicate that separation between the two, that those two titles are used.

I must say that the new bill setting up the new department went last week to the legislation committee of the Privy Council, and I hope my colleague will present it within the next few days.

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AIR TRANSPORT

INQUIRY WHETHER DECISION MADE CONCERNING SUBSIDIES FOR EASTERN PROVINCIAL AIRWAYS AT ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE, QUEBEC

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my question to the Minister of Transport.

In order to avoid another sizeable, and perhaps even the total disappearance of air transport services in the Magdalen Islands by the carrier Eastern Provincial Airways, could the