

TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT OF LOCOMOTIVES WITH
FLASHERS

Mr. S. J. Korchinski (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. For several years I asked the former Minister of Transport what action was being taken by his department with regard to placing flashers on locomotives. I was informed that further studies were to be made. Can the minister indicate today or some time in the near future what action is being taken by his department to implement that policy which is necessary to provide safety and avoid accidents?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, if, as the hon. member says, this subject has been before the department for many years, possibly he will give me an opportunity to look at the file and give him an answer.

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AIRPORTS

PICKERING—REQUEST FOR EARLY NAMING OF MEMBERS
OF BOARD OF INQUIRY

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. As there was a considerable delay in tabling the terms of reference from the date that expropriation was originally confirmed for the Pickering airport site, can the minister now indicate that the same delay will not take place between the tabling of the terms of reference and the naming of the board as it is very important that the board gets to work as quickly as possible?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Cafik: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear the response of the minister, if there was one.

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, we will see to it that the board is convened as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Ontario for a supplementary, then the hon. member for Athabasca, the hon. member for Greenwood, the hon. member for Champlain and call orders of the day.

Mr. Cafik: Is it reasonable to assume that the board members will be named within the next couple of weeks?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Yes, Mr. Speaker, if we can find people who will accept appointment.

Oral Questions

INFORMATION CANADA

ALLEGED UNJUSTIFIED RENT PAYMENTS FOR OFFICE
SPACE IN MONTREAL—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE TO
COMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Yewchuk (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, my question to the Prime Minister is supplementary to that asked by the hon. member for Peace River. In view of the fact a good deal of doubt has been cast on the procedure followed by Information Canada in renting space in a Montreal building, will the Prime Minister consider referring this and the whole matter of procedure in government negotiations for rental of new buildings to an appropriate committee for study and report to parliament?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would prefer to hear the report the Minister of Labour said he would be making to the House early next week before making a decision on this.

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● (1200)

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SOUTH VIET NAM—ALLEGED ARREST OF PERSONS FOR
MAKING STATEMENTS TO AMERICAN AND CANADIAN
DELEGATION RESPECTING POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the government received information that four persons were rearrested by the South Vietnamese police for making statements to an American and Canadian delegation, including Bishop Guy Belanger, on the question of political prisoners detained in South Viet Nam? If the facts are as alleged, will the minister protest this breach of fundamental human rights?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): My under secretary has received a letter from the primate of the Anglican Church of Canada in which such an allegation is made. The difficulty is that there is only secondhand information in this letter about the incident. We are trying to ascertain whether it is true. Of course, we would only have a basis for protest if it were true and if Canadians were involved in some way. But I can assure the hon. gentleman that we are pursuing the investigation.

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[Translation]

COMMUNICATIONS

CABLEVISION—INQUIRY AS TO DISPUTE BETWEEN
QUEBEC AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Could he tell us whether new developments have occurred or are expected concerning the Quebec-Ottawa dispute on the cablevision issue?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the matter is not litigious. We