

*Oral Questions***THE EXPORT DEVELOPMENT ACT**AMENDMENTS TO INCREASE AUTHORIZED SHARE CAPITAL,
CLARIFY DEFINITIONS AND POWERS

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-9, to amend the Export Development Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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THE PRAIRIE GRAIN ADVANCE PAYMENTS ACTAMENDMENT TO INCREASE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF ADVANCE
PAYMENT

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (for Minister of Justice) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-10, to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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[Translation]

NATIONAL ANTHEM ACT

MEASURE TO DESIGNATE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Hon. James Hugh Faulkner (Secretary of State) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-11 intitled "An Act respecting the national anthem of Canada".

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

● (1130)

[English]

TRANSPORTGOVERNMENT MEASURES TO DEAL WITH ACCIDENTS IN THE
NORTH—AVAILABILITY OF REPORT ON PLANE CRASH NEAR
FROBISHER BAY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. In view of the number of air crashes in the north and the grounding of the motor vessel *Minna* in a break-up of the ice, and since obviously there is no means in the north to prevent or to deal with this kind of situation, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he is prepared to request or instruct his ministers of defence, the environment and transport to get together and produce measures that will permit our government, through the armed forces and other services, to provide an expert presence so necessary in the north to deal with this kind of tragedy?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I will take that suggestion under very serious consideration.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Mr. Stanfield: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, for the Minister of Transport relating to the inquest into the tragic plane crash that took place near Frobisher Bay last February. May I ask the minister why the report, which is apparently fully prepared, of the investigation conducted by the minister's own department has not been made available to the coroner. I ask the minister why it will not be made available until release is authorized by some very high level in the transport department.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there must be a mistake in the way the question has been put, a mistake the hon. Leader of the Opposition made when he said the report is "fully reported or ready" . . .

[English]

It is not complete because there are some technical things that have to be added. I am just waiting for that before making the report public.

REPORT ON PLANE CRASH NEAR FROBISHER BAY—REASON
FOR DELAY

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Since this kind of investigation involves the department's investigating itself, and since presumably this is one of the matters the minister has in mind overcoming or dealing with in the commitment in the Speech from the Throne, is it not open to suspicion, to put it very bluntly, that the report has not been released because officials or others in the department wish to edit the report, since it involves an investigation of the department itself and may mean some finding of default or defalcation on the part of the department?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): If this is so, Mr. Speaker, then I think I have the same interest as the Leader of the Opposition. I am going to look into it. I asked the question myself in the department and was told the report had not been published because the department was still waiting for the complete report. If the hon. gentleman thinks somebody has something to hide, then I will try and get it revealed.

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I have a brief supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. Since his department promised me that the report would be ready in June, why has it taken so much longer to produce this report? After all, the truth cannot be changed after the accident in February.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No, Mr. Speaker, the truth cannot be changed, but sometimes it takes time to reveal the truth.