

[Translation]

**AIR TRANSPORT**AIR CANADA DECISION ON LOCATION OF NEW  
HEADQUARTERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. The Minister will recall that on December 9 of this year, regarding the new Air Canada headquarters building, I asked the Minister whether he had asked for an investigation, considering the enormous difference between the two tenders. The Minister's answer was that the fourteen criteria established by Air Canada were enough for him to let Air Canada go ahead. Yesterday, he admitted to the Leader of the Official Opposition that he had warned the President of Air Canada of an RCMP investigation. In the circumstances, could the Minister inform us today, considering the fact that he had already warned the President of Air Canada that the RCMP was going to investigate the contract, could he inform us why—and I think that the Canadian people have the right to know this—he did not recommend, as I asked him to, that Air Canada suspend its decision made on December 9 of this year?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, of course I would like to tell the Hon. Member today what this investigation is about, and he would probably understand . . . But whatever I say, it will be misinterpreted. I am under orders by the Minister of Justice not to divulge the purpose of this investigation, and I intend to follow these orders.

**Mr. La Salle:** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada. Now it seems that there are figures that prove there is a difference of \$12 million between the first and second tender. For the Prime Minister's information, the Minister had warned the President of Air Canada that the RCMP was going to investigate. I asked the Minister, on behalf of the Canadian people, to ask Air Canada to postpone this very important decision. In the circumstances, will the Right Hon. Prime Minister, in the interests of Canada and after informing the President of Air Canada, suspend the President of Air Canada until the RCMP investigation is able to shed some light on this particular contract?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, there is one rule I have always followed since I became Prime Minister, and it has always served me well: Never interfere in any way with investigations being conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I would appreciate it if the Hon. Member would take the same position and let the RCMP continue its investigation without our intervening of interfering.

80122-18

*Oral Questions*

[English]

**THE DISABLED AND THE HANDICAPPED**

## REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION OF RESPONSIBLE MINISTER

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Could the Prime Minister tell the House what his intentions are with respect to the implementation of recommendation No. 130 of the Special Committee on the Disabled and the Handicapped, which calls for the designation of a Minister of State for the status of disabled persons, who would be directly responsible for the affairs of disabled persons, in addition to his major portfolio?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, I am considering that question. The Hon. Member will know that a great number of the recommendations, I believe two-thirds of them, have already been acted upon. We are examining what we should be doing and how to respond to the other one-third, and as we are doing that I would consider the opportunity of designating a Minister, as the Hon. Member suggests.

## REQUEST FOR EARLY DECISION

**Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford):** Madam Speaker, if I could just remind the Prime Minister, we appreciate the work that has been done by his various Ministers, and particularly by the Secretary of State, but we recognize the fact that he is able only to co-ordinate the efforts of his various Departments. It now being almost two years since the report came out we hope that the Prime Minister will be willing to recognize the fact that disabled people have been waiting for some while, and would he make this change as quickly as possible?

● (1450)

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, it seems to me that the Hon. Member is asking the same question in another form. I will eventually consider designating a Minister. However, the Hon. Member recognizes, in his question, that the co-ordination has been proceeding well. I do not think, from the point of view of the disabled, that it is all that important whether one Minister or another is responsible for that particular area of government concern. The important thing is that we have acted and will continue to act on that report.

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[Translation]

**AIR TRANSPORT**PROGRESS OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN QUEBECAIR AND AIR  
CANADA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mrs. Éva Côté (Rimouski-Témiscouata):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and concerns Quebecair. Could the Minister give the House a