

Oral Questions

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. On June 26, when the minister was further questioned about the explosion, he stated that Air Canada opted for JP4 fuel because it was more efficient and more adapted to our climate. He also said he did not know the type of fuel used by Department of Transport planes. Now that he has had time to investigate, and in view of the fact that climatic conditions are the same for both Air Canada and the Department of Transport planes—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member should ask his question. I am sure the hon. member who has the floor knows there are 25 other members seeking an opportunity to ask questions and we have reached the end of the question period. Perhaps the hon. member would ask his supplementary as quickly as possible.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister now inform me why the Department of Transport does not use the same fuel exclusively as Air Canada uses?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I answered exactly the same question last week. I said at that time that the previous day I boarded a Jetstar of the Department of Transport which was refuelling at the time I was boarding it with GP4.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): On a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to hon. members but perhaps we have to hear the hon. member's point of order, after which I will regretfully have to call orders of the day.

Mr. Beattie (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my point of order relates to the possibility or probability that because of my accent the minister did not understand my question. I asked why Department of Transport planes do not use JP4 fuel exclusively if it is as safe and efficient as he claims it to be for Air Canada?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I apologize if I did not understand the question correctly. In my answer I referred to "GP4" and I should have said JP4. I must state that all the technical advice we have indicates that it is not dangerous to the point that we should switch from one to the other.

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. member is rising on a point of order he will be recognized for that purpose, after which, as I said, we will call orders of the day.

Mr. Ellis: Mr. Speaker, I think my point of order is reasonable. I asked for the referral of some documents and the minister said, "when they are ready". These documents that I want sent to the committee have been on the table since last spring.

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

• (1500)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

CANADA PENSION PLAN

CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBERS OF CERTAIN RELIGIOUS SECTS, INTEREST RATE ON DELAYED PAYMENTS, PAYMENT OF LEGAL EXPENSES

The House resumed, from Friday, September 14, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lalonde for the second reading and reference to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs of Bill C-190, to amend the Canada Pension Plan.

Mr. Thomas S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, in the period immediately prior to private members' hour on September 14 when we last had this bill under consideration, I had suggested in respect of one aspect of the bill that this House should proceed with extreme caution when providing for exemptions from the bill's general application.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Translation]

Order. Allow me to point out to hon. members that it is rather difficult to hear the hon. member who now has the floor. The interesting conversations now going on could easily be held behind the curtains.

[English]

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Speaker, there are aspects of this bill on which hon. members have touched and with which I find no quarrel, but I do feel that the question of exemptions for a special group or groups is a matter which should receive careful scrutiny by the standing committee before the bill is reported.

As was indicated, the government apparently had a change of mind on this matter, and I suggested that possibly this is one case where the government was making a mistake by changing its mind. Hon. members may recall that immediately prior to the commencement of my speech the hon. member for Waterloo-Cambridge (Mr. Saltsman) gave us a very carefully phrased submission expressing his support of this exemption with special reference to the Old Order of Mennonites.

In the course of the hon. member's remarks he indicated that, according to his understanding, at the time this group entered Canada there was some agreement either expressed or implied which provided certain exemptions, and this was one of the conditions on which they immigrated to Canada. I would be willing to agree that there may be circumstances under which a form of special covenant was entered into, and that is a matter of valid consideration in relation to any legislation. Certainly, if there are such covenants or understandings their existence or otherwise should be carefully examined by the committee in all aspects, in order that the real facts can be ascertained. It is only after that kind of careful examination that the House can really have a clear picture of the right course of action to be taken.