

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Yes, Mr. Speaker. That is right.

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TRANSPORT

SNOWMOBILE DEFICIENCIES—INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION—CONSULTATION WITH MANUFACTURERS TO EFFECT IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. With reference to the recent report of the Canadian Safety Council that there has been a 26.9 per cent increase in the number of deaths through the use of snowmobiles and in view of the minister's own report of November 19 suggesting that there should be legislation enacted in respect of the noise level, lighting, shielding of moving parts, brake lights and so on, I wonder whether the minister has moved forward to provide legislation in this area and whether or not there has been any consultation with the various snowmobile producers in order to effect some of these changes in this year's models?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): There are several parts to that question, Mr. Speaker. There is no need for additional legislation. What is now on the books gives the authority to make further regulations. We propose to do this in the areas the hon. member has mentioned. There is ongoing consultation with the manufacturers. In fact, the report I tabled had to do with last year's models and some of the improvements we suggested have been implemented in this year's models.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Egmont might be allowed to ask a supplementary and then I will recognize the hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): Could the minister give an indication to the House in the next few days concerning the kind of regulations that will be brought forward as well as agreements on the part of the manufacturers in respect of model changes necessary for this year?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, I would be glad to do that. I already have in fact, and the report itself suggests the areas where regulations would be desirable.

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AIR TRANSPORT

USE BY ROYAL AIR FORCE OF UNITED STATES FACILITIES AT GOOSE BAY BECAUSE OF DETERIORATION OF DEPARTMENT RAMPS AND HANGARS

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport while he is already warmed up. Is the minister prepared now to reply to my question of November 4 with regard to the transfer of Royal Air Force maintenance activities to the United States Air Force base at Goose Bay?

[Mr. Nowlan.]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I have an answer and indeed I apologize to the hon. member for not having given it before. The reason for the transfer is purely and simply the deterioration in the condition of the ramp used previously by the RAF. This is being repaired. When these repairs are completed matters will revert to what they were before. They will go back to using the ramp in the normal fashion. I believe it is anticipated that the repairs will take something like six months.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

DISPLAYING OF POLITICAL POSTERS BY EMPLOYEES AT HOME OR ON PERSONAL PROPERTY

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister. Is the government contemplating any changes to the Public Service Employment Act which would make clear that a public servant is not contravening the act when he displays a political poster at his own home or on his own personal property. I ask this question in view of an answer to a question which I received earlier this week.

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, this is obviously a question which cannot be answered in one word. I would be glad if the hon. gentleman would give me some of the circumstances.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

NORTHEASTERN ALBERTA—ACTION BY MINISTER TO SOLVE SCHOOL DISPUTE—DISCUSSION OF LONG-RANGE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Mr. Don Mazankowski (Vegreville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. As a result of the discussions which are taking place with the Indian Association of Alberta and representatives of the Cold Lake Band and the evidence being presented before the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development, can the minister indicate to the House whether he now intends to take any initiatives toward satisfactorily resolving the school crisis in northeastern Alberta?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, my position has always been the same, and the children must return to school before I consider changing it. As to discussion of the action to follow, I am prepared to consider any representations submitted.

[English]

Mr. Mazankowski: A supplementary—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have gone beyond the question period. Perhaps the hon. member might be allowed a supplementary. I understand the hon. member for Ontario is exercised by the fact that he has not had a