

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Horner:** A supplementary question. Does this fund or assistance apply to all air traffic controllers within Quebec?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, the proposal is to have it available to those who find it difficult or are unwilling to accommodate themselves to a bilingual control atmosphere. In that sense it applies to all of them who are in that situation.

POSSIBILITY ONE THIRD OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS WILL LEAVE QUEBEC—INQUIRY AS TO CONTINGENCY PLAN

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Minister of Transport. Since there has been a request on behalf of approximately 100 traffic controllers out of some 270 in the province of Quebec, and remembering that air traffic control is a highly demanding occupation that does not readily lend itself to overtime work, has the government formulated any contingency plans should the contemplated exodus of up to or over one-third of the air traffic controllers in the province of Quebec take place?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the difficulty of having an adequate number of air traffic controllers who can control traffic in the two languages was a reason which I gave at the time of setting out the gradual schedule rather than a more rapid one for the implementation of bilingual air traffic control within the province of Quebec. I can say to the hon. member that the most recent report I have is that the number of controllers interested in moving is rather lower than the figure he is using which would be closer to the figures I have seen for both those desiring some training and those wishing to move.

REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO SAFETY ASPECT OF USE OF BILINGUAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar):** A final supplementary, Mr. Speaker. I believe the figures show that 62 air traffic controllers are taking active steps to leave the province and another 37 are contemplating doing so as soon as possible. Would the government at the present time be receptive to the idea of setting up an independent public inquiry to determine conditions for air safety in Quebec so that we may set this whole question to rest once and for all?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to show the hon. member that we are not at all hesitant about any kind of examination of our procedures in regard to air traffic control and the safety involved. I should remind hon. members, however, that this whole discussion is based on a plan of progressively offering additional air traffic control services in the two languages in the province of Quebec. The whole plan was based, in the case of instrument flight operations, first of all on very carefully testing and developing procedures with the co-operation of airline pilots and controllers in order to be absolutely sure they are safe. We can assure the Canadian people that we are confident the moves we are

[Mr. Lang.]

making in regard to bilingual air traffic control will be fully consistent with the high standard of safety which Canada has always had.

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POST OFFICES

ALLEGED DISCONTINUANCE OF STREET CORNER BOXES FOR THE COLLECTION OF MAIL

**Mr. Craig Stewart (Marquette):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Is it now the policy of the Post Office Department to discontinue use of postal letter boxes on street corners as a further cutback, except in communities where there is door to door delivery service? The postal letter boxes I refer to are those used for mailing letters.

**Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General):** Mr. Speaker, it is not a very rigid policy. If the hon. gentleman would give me a particular case of hardship as a result of some negligence or action on the part of the Post Office, I should be glad to rectify it.

**Mr. Stewart (Marquette):** Mr. Speaker, this cutback in service affects all citizens but in particular our senior citizens. Will the minister reconsider this policy? As an example, of where it has taken place I will use the town of Neepawa, Manitoba.

**Mr. Mackasey:** It is a beautiful town and I shall do everything to accommodate the senior citizens.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

ROYAL ASSENT

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that the following communication has been received:

Government House  
Ottawa

5 May, 1976

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Bora Laskin, P.C., Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, will proceed to the Senate Chamber today, the 5th day of May, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving Royal Assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
Edmond Jolly de Lotbinière,  
Administrative Secretary  
to the Governor General.

● (1500)

[English]

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order in reference to the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs Considering Bill C-83 while the debate is now