

[English]

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Transport. We were raising the concerns about air safety long before the Dryden crash. Any suggestion that we are making politics out of peoples' deaths is shocking.

Last week the Minister announced changes to the Aviation Safety Board investigation pattern. He made no announcement whatever about changes to prevent air crashes or air incidences in this country.

• (1510)

Since he seems to be prepared to stay on in the job and the Prime Minister is not prepared to get rid of him, I wish to ask the Minister when is he going to take action to deal with the preventive measures, and when is he going to bring forward a public inquiry into aviation safety in order that once and for all we can get at the root of the problem?

[Translation]

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of Transport): Last week, Mr. Speaker, we gave specific answers to specific problems concerning the question of Gander and the question of Dryden. We also announced a new bill on the control of air accidents, which I hope to introduce this week. I would suggest that is one part of the answer. Whenever an independent government agency will be in a position to guarantee normal operations. . . we do have a prevention mechanism. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I have at my disposal the resources I think are necessary. However, I made an announcement last week and on Thursday this week I will meet with spokesmen for the pilots, air carriers, controllers, and eventually inspectors, to decide if more can be done with the resources on hand, again with a view to avoiding such accidents as we had to cope with in recent days.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have what we need to proceed. There was a misunderstanding in an agency which does not come under the Government. This House set up the Aviation Safety Board and this House will replace it. As I said, all mechanisms, standards and regulations are available and we will continue to use them as we have done in the past.

Oral Questions

[English]

MULTICULTURALISM

ALLIANCE QUEBEC OFFICE FIRE

Hon. Bob Layton (Lachine—Lac-Saint-Louis): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State. The predecessor of the Secretary of State indicated that his Department would consider the special and unique needs of Alliance Quebec following the fire at its offices in Montreal on December 31, 1988.

Will the Minister be providing additional funding to Alliance Quebec to ensure that its operations can be restored?

Hon. Gerry Weiner (Secretary of State of Canada and Minister of State (Multiculturalism and Citizenship): Mr. Speaker, as Secretary of State, I am fully committed to promoting Canada's linguistic duality and supporting our official minority linguistic communities. This is a personal commitment.

Organizations such as Alliance Quebec and the Federation des francophones hors Quebec have made a significant contribution to these goals and their communities.

I am therefore very pleased to be able to award a grant of \$120,000 to Alliance Quebec.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Weiner: This will help with some of the expenses incurred during the fire. I do want to thank the Hon. Member for his vision and leadership—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Haldimand—Norfolk).

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CANADA-UNITED STATES FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

EFFECT ON AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Mr. Bob Speller (Haldimand—Norfolk): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and part-time Minister of Agriculture.

On November 25, the Prime Minister stated, and I quote: "I want to tell Canadians we shall ensure innovative and generous adjustment and retraining programs will be introduced whenever and wherever required."

In light of this commitment and the fact that the recent de Grandpré Report proposes no special free trade assistance, would the Minister assure the Canadian public that he will reject de Grandpré's "trust don't adjust" philosophy and set up the programs the Prime Minister promised?