

Oral Questions

REQUEST THAT MINISTERS SHARE SPACE ON AIRCRAFT

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I am very glad he is also the Minister of Finance who is supposed to bring in a budget soon showing certain leadership in terms of restraint. As a preface to my question, I wonder, when the minister answers, whether he could say that the reason he flew west commercially is that all other JetStars were already in use. Although the Deputy Prime Minister hopes to be other things some day, I refer him to the speech of the Prime Minister to the Liberal fund-raising dinner in Toronto last Wednesday wherein he said:

I want to speak to you about the economy, about the challenges it presents, about how a Liberal government responds. In tough times, what is a Liberal, what does he think, what does he do?

On another page he said:

Liberals believe in caring; Liberals believe in sharing.

My question is along the lines of that of the Leader of the NDP. Does the Deputy Prime Minister think that three ministers, using three government jets within three hours, to travel from Ottawa to the same city of Winnipeg, is an example for Canadians in caring when three ministers cannot share equal space on those three jets?

An hon. Member: Are you going to answer?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I have decided against it, after deep reflection.

QUERY RESPECTING TRAVEL TO LIBERAL PARTY DINNER IN TORONTO

Mr. Pat Nowlan (Annapolis Valley-Hants): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Transport. I assume the minister can assure us that on Wednesday, after the vote here, there were no government jets or planes which flew from Ottawa to Toronto to the fund-raising dinner. If he cannot assure us today, could he let us know tomorrow?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, I checked with my office, because obviously we keep track of the use of planes.

An hon. Member: Not very well.

Mr. Pepin: I am sure that none of the planes were used for trips to Toronto for that particular event.

* * *

VETERANS AFFAIRS

WOODS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS—REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Veterans

Affairs. The Senate committee just completed a study into the serious problems in the Department of Veterans Affairs. It recommended that "the government appoint a committee composed of officials from both the government and veterans associations to review and update those recommendations of the Woods committee which have not been implemented and to identify, study and make recommendations about the anomalies" which exist in the minister's department. The Woods Committee conducted a study a number of years ago of problems in Veterans Affairs. One of the more serious problems in the department is that it takes five years to process pension applications, whereas it takes only 90 days in the United States. Will the minister be appointing the committee recommended by the Senate?

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member realizes, approximately one and a half months ago we engaged the services of Mr. Arthur McCracken to review the administrative and adjudicative process within the Canadian Pension Commission. Part of his mandate is not only to review the process and to consult with people within the commission, but also to meet with veterans organizations to hear their concerns and suggestions. I would certainly want to receive the report from Mr. McCracken prior to establishing any committee.

I might also say that the hon. member made reference to the fact that this study will not be completed until 1983. This is not true. I can tell him that the study is proceeding very effectively. I hope to have a report within the next month.

PRISONER OF WAR PENSIONS

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Madam Speaker, I fail to see how an authority on the Veterans' Land Act can make recommendations to the pension commission. Also the Senate committee pointed out that there were inequities in the pensions of prisoners of war. When will the minister introduce legislation to stop these inequities? One example is that Dieppe POWs receive only 20 per cent pensions whereas other POWs receive 50 per cent pensions.

Hon. W. Bennett Campbell (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Madam Speaker, as the hon. member knows, the percentage approved for various categories of POWs was arrived at after fairly extensive study. We recognize the recommendation made by the Senate committee. We are reviewing it. Of course it will be some time before we have a final conclusion on it. At that point in time I would be happy to provide the information to the House.

* * *

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

ISSUANCE OF WRITS OF ASSISTANCE

Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. It deals with