

Oral Questions

report from the Senate. I will be addressing the recommendations of the Senate within that particular Chamber.

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AIR SAFETY**DANGERS POSED BY CIGARETTE SMOKING**

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Restigouche): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and concerns a question that has been raised before with regard to safety and regulations on smoking, and the consideration of banning smoking on aircraft. It is not only a question of smoke and the health hazard of smoking on aircraft, but butane flames, matches and the lighting of that material which can be explosive.

An Hon. Member: Do you smoke?

Mr. Harquail: As a matter of fact I do not smoke.

Miss Campbell: That is why you are asking.

Mr. Harquail: I was just confirming that the Hon. Member was quite correct. I gave up that habit some time ago.

Is the Minister considering any action within his Ministry to have the Canadian Transport Commission investigate the danger to passengers inherent in allowing smoking on aircraft, and the measures that could be taken to avoid such danger, by considering the banning of smoking on aircraft?

Miss Campbell: With larger ashtrays.

Mr. Harquail: Could the Minister inform the House if any steps are being considered within his Ministry, or within the Canadian Transport Commission, to protect all Canadians travelling in Canada, indeed including Members of this House, Madam Speaker.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Transport): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member asks a very serious question and it deserves a serious answer. We are carefully considering the whole question relating to fire safety. We are working very closely with the United States Federal Aviation Agency which has just put forward a new series of regulations on fire resistant materials. They have promulgated orders and we will be looking at the responses to see if they can also be applied in Canadian aircraft because of the close linkage and the shared air routes between the two countries.

At the same time, my colleague's Department of National Health and Welfare is also looking at questions relating to smoking generally, as a health hazard. I think the combination of those two investigations will ensure that we provide the most effective balance of measures to protect the Canadian public in their air travel.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**GRENADA—INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Madam Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Prime Minister or to the Acting Secretary of State for External Affairs. It concerns the continuing confusion over the status of the island of Grenada in the Caribbean. I wonder if the Prime Minister or the Acting Minister could indicate what the situation in Grenada is, not only for the edification of the House but as well for the literally thousands of Canadians of Grenadian heritage who are in Canada.

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member will be reassured to know that while the situation in relation to the form of the future government in Grenada is unclear, the situation today is calm. There is a representative of our mission in Barbados who is presently in Grenada to observe the situation. There appears to be no danger whatsoever to the 81 or so Canadians who are resident in that island for one reason or another, or to the few Canadian tourists who are there at the present time.

COMMUNICATIONS INQUIRY

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I thank the Minister for that answer, Madam Speaker. May I ask him whether he is in a position to indicate to the House if air flights and the normal means of communication, air and boat and as well telecommunications, telephones, are in working order with Grenada? Grenada is a beautiful city, but it is in Spain.

Hon. Gerald Regan (Minister of State (International Trade)): Madam Speaker, I am unable to confirm to the Hon. Member the situation in relation to telecommunications at the moment, but they have been normalized, and flights have been arriving on and departing from the island.

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GARRISON DIVERSION**CANADIAN REPRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Terry Sargeant (Selkirk-Interlake): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment who, this past weekend, met in Halifax with American officials, including the U.S. Secretary of State and the head of the environmental Protection Agency. I should like to ask the Minister what, if any, representations he made with regard to the Garrison diversion issue, and what response he received from the Americans.

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, in conjunction with our Secretary of State for External Affairs, we made representations on the Garrison proposal both on Phase One and Phase Two. We registered Canadian concerns very strongly and very firmly once again.