

AIRPORTS

PICKERING—STATUS OF HOUSES SLATED FOR DEMOLITION
AND ALTERNATIVE PLANS FOR OCCUPANTS

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary has to do with housing, but it is supplementary to earlier questions directed to the Minister of Transport with regard to Pickering. Under the original proposal a great many houses in the Pickering area were slated for demolition. Given yesterday's announcement, would the minister say what is the present status of these houses? Are they still slated for demolition and if so, what alternative plans are being made for the occupants?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think this question is a matter for the Minister of Public Works who is in charge of expropriation, so perhaps he would answer the question.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to have the Minister of Public Works answer it.

Hon. C. M. Drury (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I would ask the hon. lady to repeat the question.

Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I was referring to the earlier questions regarding Pickering airport. Under the original proposal a great many houses in the Pickering area were slated for demolition. Given yesterday's announcement, what is the present status of these houses? Are they still slated for demolition and, if so, what alternative plans are being made for the occupants?

Mr. Drury: Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice; I regret to say I am not sure to which houses the hon. lady is making reference. It is intended to proceed with the expropriation plans as filed. There will be no change in either the area to be expropriated or in the type of compensation offered.

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FISHERIES

LOCKEPORT, NOVA SCOTIA—DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS BY
FIRE AND CLOSURE OF FISH PLANT—GOVERNMENT ACTION
TO ASSIST COMMUNITY

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I am not certain whether I should direct my question to the Minister of State (Fisheries) or to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, but I direct it to the Minister of State (Fisheries) and I hope the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion is listening. A recent fire destroyed six buildings in the town of Lockeport, Nova Scotia, while at the same time one of the leading fish plants in the town was forced to close. Is the minister aware of this situation and, if so, are any efforts being made to assist these people during this serious period of economic hardship? Have any representations been made to the minister by the provincial government in Nova Scotia seeking provincial aid to cover this disaster?

Oral Questions

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I am very much aware of this problem. I have discussed it with officials from the Nova Scotia government and we are doing everything we can from our point of view to help find a solution.

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POST OFFICE

CONTINUATION OF STRIKE AT TORONTO—GOVERNMENT
ACTION TO SETTLE—CONTINGENCY PLANS TO ASSURE
DELIVERY OF OLD AGE PENSION CHEQUES

Hon. W. G. Dinsdale (Brandon-Souris): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Now that mail is being cleared through the Montreal office, and in view of the assurance that mail would be going forward in the Toronto office as at midnight last night, would the hon. gentleman inform the House whether the further delay and continuation of the strike in Toronto is related to the ideological conflict to which he referred on February 17 and, if so, what action is he taking to deal with this growing aggravation?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, as is usually the case in a legal strike, there is a certain amount of confusion in the first couple of days. As the hon. gentleman has quite properly pointed out, picketing in most areas is very peaceful. The couriers are obviously not crossing the line for philosophical reasons, though women sorters are quite prepared to cross. We have an obligation to run the post office. As long as the picket lines are peaceful, we will have to find truck drivers who have the courage to cross a picket line. With regard to those who resort to violence and vandalism, the law will be used to the utmost to weed these people out of the post office, because they are not representative of the average postal worker.

In so far as the cheques for senior citizens are concerned, the unions are now working very closely with postal authorities to make sure that no impediment is placed in the way of an orderly delivery of cheques to people who are the innocent victims of labour disputes. In the case of the hon. member for Churchill, if he finds it too onerous to go from door to door and needs a jet, perhaps he will take advantage of the gymnasium in the Confederation Building to get in shape.

● (1210)

Mr. Dinsdale: Mr. Speaker, now that it is understood that the strike in Toronto is continuing into the weekend, which makes the flow of cheques critical, I wonder whether the Postmaster General could be more specific in outlining emergency plans for distribution of these cheques than he was in respect of the tongue-in-cheek proposal he made to the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands and to the hon. member for Churchill?

Mr. Mackasey: Mr. Speaker, the point I was making to the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands was a serious one. If we cannot deliver senior citizens' cheques by mail, and the unfortunate part of this situation is that senior citizens are becoming very concerned and abnor-