

*Oral Questions*

Member in the next short while will see leading roles taken in the interests of Canadian agriculture by the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister, and other cabinet Ministers.

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● (1140)

**AIR SAFETY****ARCTIC AIRPORTS PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT**

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the Canadian Aviation Safety Board's finding that inadequate facilities are compromising air safety in northern Canada, will the Minister now reinstate the Arctic Airports Program cancelled by the previous Government?

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the Hon. Member that my official response to the Canadian Aviation Safety Board is being drafted and it will be submitted before the deadline of May 19.

With respect to the program to which the Hon. Member referred, it is something that is being discussed with my cabinet colleagues, but I should remind him that some \$4.5 million has been spent on the Arctic Class "B" airports in the North since September, 1985. We will continue to use resources that are available to us to improve air safety in the North, as well as the infrastructure.

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**IMMIGRATION****REPORTED PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE VISA PERMITS FOR PORTUGUESE VISITORS**

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration and concerns today's media reports suggesting that the Government is considering slapping visa requirements on all visitors from Portugal. I said in the House on April 11 that that action would be unwarranted and unfair and asked the Minister to abandon the proposal. Is the Minister prepared to confirm that officials have recommended such action and, if so, is she prepared to assure the House that she will reject it and thus avoid needlessly penalizing the Canadian Portuguese community and a European friend and ally?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I think it can be said without fear of contradiction that Canada has a well-known generous humanitarian attitude toward people coming to this country, whether as refugees or as immigrants. We want to ensure that that continues without fraudulent activity or abuse. In order to

ensure that we have a proper and humanitarian refugee determination system, certain options are being considered. I can tell the Hon. Member that when these options have been finalized and the decisions are taken, they will be announced.

**REFUGEE DETERMINATION POLICY**

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not answer my question. I would like to pose the following question. Does she think it is fair to impose these sanctions on Portugal as a response to the refugee dilemma when she and the Government have failed miserably to bring in a refugee determination process that would address the 21,000 claimant backlog? Is she using Portugal and the Portuguese as a scapegoat for her own shortcomings?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, this Government and this Party have no excuses to make. This Government stands second to none in its approach to refugees being accepted into this country.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Miss MacDonald:** We will continue that approach. As I told the Hon. Member, we are at the present time considering options which will ensure that our refugee determination policy is just, humane and fair. I also want to assure him that the Minister of State for Immigration will be addressing this issue shortly and at the same time addressing the issue of the backlog.

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**AGRICULTURE****SALE OF SUBSIDIZED AMERICAN WHEAT TO ALGERIA**

**Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is supplementary to the question put by the Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville to the Minister of Agriculture. The Hon. Member for Yorkton—Melville mentioned the export enhancement program the U.S. is using on the sale of 100 million tons of wheat to Algeria, which has been our market, at export subsidies up to \$54-American per ton. Can the Minister tell us if the United States complied with the article of the International Wheat Agreement which provides that, when a country engages in concessional export transactions, it shall consult with the exporting members whose commercial sales might be affected by such transactions to the maximum possible extent? Did these consultations take place? Did the U.S. initiate these consultations with us? When were they, and what was the nature of them?

**Hon. John Wise (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I will take notice of that question in the absence of the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board. Again, though I was recalling from memory, I said that we were still maintaining