

with the association and its members and I feel the atmosphere is good. Certainly, my own commitment is to give them all the assistance we possibly can under the present circumstances.

* * *

INCOME TAX

LOSS ON EXCHANGE TRANSACTION BY CAMPEAU CORPORATION—INQUIRY WHETHER ARM'S LENGTH DEAL

Mr. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Revenue of which I have given notice. In view of the fact that Campeau Corporation has either paid or reserved a \$13.8 million exchange transaction loss on a 1972 \$27 million loan from a Swiss lender, has the minister satisfied himself that this loan arrangement causing a potential loss of tax revenue to the Receiver General was and is an arm's length deal?

● (1450)

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, in the interests of confidentiality we do not discuss individual taxpayer's situations or investigations which may or may not be taking place. I can only say to the hon. member that when we see transactions which are not at arms length, we consider them very carefully, but I do not think the hon. member would want me to comment on an individual taxpayer's return.

* * *

AIR TRANSPORT

POSSIBILITY OF MOTION APPROVING REPORT OF COMMISSION ON BILINGUAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL—EFFECT OF FREE VOTE ON MOTION

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport, and it is supplementary to the questions asked by the Leader of the NDP. To expedite proceedings my question is in three parts. First, did I correctly understand the minister's explanation in answer to questions to be that there will be a motion for approval of the commission report regardless of the conclusions of the report? Second, since everyone has said that this issue is a technical one involving safety, and since a commission has been chosen to hear and assess technical evidence in a very complex field, does the minister think parliamentary approval by a so-called free vote is going to help or hurt the resolution of this technical question? Third, is this unusual and potentially divisive procedure to be a precedent in all future labour-management problems involving federal public servants, or is it to be restricted just to labour problems in the federal field where bilingualism is an issue?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the answer to the first question is no, the second question is clearly argumentative, and the answer to the third question is also no.

Oral Questions

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INQUIRY IF CANADIANS ON AIR FRANCE AIRCRAFT HIJACKED IN AFRICA

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask a question of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I wonder if the parliamentary secretary could tell us if there were any Canadians implicated or involved in any way with the Air France aircraft which was hijacked in Africa this week.

[Translation]

Miss Monique Bégin (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, as I understood, the hon. member is worrying about Canadians who were on the plane hijacked to Uganda. To the best of our knowledge, unfortunately there are five Canadians involved, probably six. I think it would not be appropriate to give the names in the House, but I could do so in private to the hon. member. I wish to assure the House that the department immediately sent a telex to our High Commissioner in Nairobi, urging him to send an official to Kampala to discuss with the government of Uganda and to do his utmost to save the lives of those Canadians who, for the moment, appear to be safe.

* * *

[English]

HEALTH

EFFORTS TO STOP NATIVES EATING FISH FROM WABIGOON AND ENGLISH RIVERS—SUPPLYING OTHER SOURCES OF PROTEIN

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the most unfortunate news that Minamata Disease has been confirmed in Canada, would the minister tell us what efforts he is making to stop the eating of all fish from the Wabigoon and English river systems which are affecting the Indians at the White Dog and Grassy Narrows areas?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, it is most unfortunate that one case of Minamata disease has been identified in Canada. The individual concerned was sent to Winnipeg to pass more elaborate tests so as to proceed with a necessary extensive follow-up.

With regards to Indians eating this fish, there is an extensive education, follow-up and control program for them which has been in force for almost two years now. There is also the problem of sport fishing which is done in this area. My colleagues are to meet the Ontario ministers responsible for those matters in early July. I hope that the government of Ontario will agree to close completely this river to sport fishing.

[English]

Mr. Malone: In view of the dangers of Minamata disease, and in view of what we have witnessed in Japan, would the minister guarantee that he will stop the eating of all fish from that system and supply supplementary diets to