

Inquiries of the Ministry

and control of mining operations and abandoned mine workings come under the jurisdiction of the province concerned. The fire in the coal mine dump at Springhill, Nova Scotia, has been burning for a number of years and the department of mines of that province is actively continuing its investigation of ways and means of controlling the burning and the smoke pollution. The federal government stands ready to provide technical advice relative to this provincial responsibility, should it be requested.

Mr. Coates: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. If federal officials have no jurisdiction in the area, why have officials of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources gone to Springhill to study the matter? On what basis has that been done, and why?

Mr. Orange: Mr. Speaker, I assume they have gone at the invitation of the provincial department of mines.

Mr. Coates: A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Could the acting minister inform the house whether air pollution is a responsibility of the federal government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

EXPO '67

INQUIRY AS TO SALE OF EXPO EXPRESS

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce may I direct a question to the Minister without Portfolio, the hon. member for Saskatoon-Humboldt. Some ten days ago I asked the minister to advise the house what steps were being taken to protect the city of Edmonton with regard to the disposal of the Expo express. Some time has passed. Can the minister tell us just what steps have been taken. Just what is the decision with regard to the public sale of equipment forming part of Expo express?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, nothing really has changed in the time that has passed. Discussions between interested parties are going on and I assure the hon. member that the proper interests of all parties will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In this case is the highest bid for the Expo express to be accepted?

Mr. Lang (Saskatoon-Humboldt): The high bid in fact was accepted in the case of the Expo express.

Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West): For which tender?

AIR TRANSPORT

BRITISH COLUMBIA—INSTALLATION OF HOMING DEVICES

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Bruce Howard (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, my question is intended for the Acting Minister of Transport. In view of the recent loss of another aircraft, bringing the total to 45 lost in southern British Columbia in the last ten years, is the minister considering the compulsory installation of homing beacon devices on aircraft operating in southern British Columbia?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, I sympathize with the concern that is expressed about this matter. Generally speaking, the department is in favour of safety devices of this kind, but the kind of search and rescue device that is being spoken of has not had wide acceptance, and it is expensive. For those reasons it has not been made compulsory.

Mr. Howard (Okanagan Boundary): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the acting minister aware that this device can be purchased for less than \$200?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Georges Valade (Sainte-Marie): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker, to that asked by the hon. member who has just sat down. Can the minister take this house into his confidence and say whether the report to the effect that the Minister of Transport is to change servicing procedures at Dorval and Malton airports represents official government policy?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member cannot ask a minister to confirm or deny reports of this nature.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

BRITISH COLUMBIA—PUBLICATION OF NAMES OF WELFARE RECIPIENTS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development can