

Inquiries of the Ministry

the many submissions made to the minister in the past and of some that are being made at the present time opposing increased tolls on the St. Lawrence Seaway, can the minister say whether any decision has been made that increased tolls will be enacted before next spring?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. The situation is as I have outlined to the House on several previous occasions. No decision has been made. Representations are still coming in. It is my intention to get as many representations as possible before considering the matter. In the interim, some talks are going on with the United States, as I believe is a matter of public knowledge, at the official level between the two Seaway authorities with a view to getting a better understanding of some of the findings of the Carr report, which in effect indicated that the U.S. portion of the cost is less than the value that the United States is getting out of the Seaway in relation to what Canada is getting out of the Seaway.

Mr. Skoberg: Mr. Speaker, would the minister give consideration to referring the Carr report to the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications so that submissions can be made to that committee?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I will be very glad to give consideration to that, but it might be a more appropriate course for us to accumulate all of the submissions and then submit those as well as the report to the committee, perhaps at the time that the Seaway authority is being examined by the committee. I have no objection to the committee having a look at the whole picture.

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HARBOURS**THUNDER BAY—ALLEGED INADEQUACY OF FACILITIES FOR SEAGOING VESSELS**

Mr. A. P. Gleave (Saskatoon-Biggar): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of reports that facilities at Thunder Bay are not adequate for seagoing vessels and that there is a slow turn-around of vessels, will the minister investigate these allegations and report to the House or take steps to correct the situation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker. Without going into details, I think it is fair to say that improvements are being made on a regular basis at Thunder Bay and other terminals. I would hope that those who are making representations with regard to increased costs on the Seaway, that is, users of the Seaway, and others who impose much higher charges than we do, would co-operate with us in trying to keep down the over-all cost of shipments on the Seaway.

[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**FRANCOPHONE CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION AGENCY—STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS RESPECTING QUEBEC**

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Since a plenary session of the Agence de coopération culturelle et technique des pays francophones is scheduled for mid-October in Ottawa and Quebec City, and in view of the fact that according to an agreement reached in Niamey a year ago Quebec was considered as a participating country, could the Acting Prime Minister advise the House whether Quebec's aspirations will be met during this conference? If not, could he inform the House as to the status of negotiations between the two governments?

[English]

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, there have been some discussions at the official level, and within the next few days I expect that my colleague, the Secretary of State, and myself will be having discussions with ministers of the Quebec government to determine the status of the Quebec delegation at the forthcoming meeting of the agency.

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AIR CANADA**REQUEST FOR LOWER DOMESTIC FARES**

Mr. Charles H. Thomas (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. On June 30 the minister told the House that he had conveyed to Air Canada the desire of the government that Air Canada put together a package of special rates for travel within Canada. Now that Air Canada has filed special rates for trans-Atlantic flights, can the minister tell the House if it has acceded to his request and if we can expect an announcement soon on domestic rates?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not at all certain whether a specific package of fares has been filed in terms of domestic routes. I do know, however, as I imagine the hon. member does, that a number of special excursion package fares within Canada have been announced. I will inquire whether any special package has been filed and pass on any information I get to the hon. member.

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PACIFIC GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY**FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY STANDARDS**

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Having in mind the number of accidents which in recent years have afflicted the Pacific Great Eastern Railway, now known as the British Columbia Railway, has the federal Department of Transport any connection with,