

overcoming of this problem of preclearance at the Toronto International Airport.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** As the hon. member mentioned, negotiations are going on now. I do not have the result of those negotiations and I do not think I should reveal anything which is being discussed at this moment.

INQUIRY AS TO ALLOCATION OF EDMONTON-CALGARY  
LINK TO UNITED STATES

**Mr. William Skoreyko (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport and is supplementary. Can the minister tell the House whether the government has reached a decision now on the expansion of western Canada air routes, and particularly the Edmonton-Calgary link to the United States?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** This is surely one of the preoccupations of the department and is something we are trying to achieve now.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO LEGISLATION TO INCREASE BASIC RATE  
OF DISABILITY PENSION

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. In view of the assurance the minister gave the House on May 17 that he hoped to be able, before the end of May, to introduce the government's bill to amend the Pension Act so as to increase the basic rate of the war disability pension, and in view of the fact that there are only about eight or nine hours left in the month of May, is he now in a position to introduce that legislation?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, my department is presently working on the legislation and I hope to present it to the House before too long. I do not think we can get it here before tonight.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister say whether that legislation will follow the recommendations of the joint study group on the basic rate of the war disability pension?

**Mr. MacDonald (Cardigan):** I would prefer not to make that statement at this time. When the legislation is brought in this will be determined.

Oral Questions

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

POSITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ON  
GOVERNMENT'S LIST OF PRIORITIES—EQUAL  
APPLICATION TO ALL AREAS

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of the Environment. In view of the fact that in the list of priorities reported today environmental protection apparently is not considered by the government to be as important as bilingualism, does the order of priority apply equally to every part of this country?

● (1520)

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment):** No comment, Mr. Speaker.

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[Translation]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

KILLING OF TWO CANADIAN GIRLS AT VICTORIA  
FALLS—REQUEST THAT MINISTER TABLE THE HIGH  
COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

**Mr. Claude Wagner (Saint-Hyacinthe):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

Is the minister prepared to table a copy of the report drafted by the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr. A. M. Leith, giving the real version of the events surrounding the killings in Zambia of two Canadian citizens, a report which is rumoured to contradict the remarks of Zambia's foreign affairs minister?

[English]

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, if the House will permit, I will make a short statement. I do not intend to table the communication from the deputy high commissioner to me because that is a privileged document. However, I would be prepared to give the substance of the disagreement if the House would let me make a statement now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Fairweather:** You are reverting to motions.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. To clarify what we are doing now, may I point out that the suggestion made by the minister is that we revert to motions for the purpose of making a statement. I am wondering whether the House might not prefer that we go to the end of the question period, and then have the minister make his statement on motions under the Standing Order which would invite comments from parties in opposition. Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.