

Oral Questions

practice, I should like to know what is the basis of his objection.

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD**REASON FOR REDUCTION OF WAGE INCREASE FOR ATLANTIC SUGAR EMPLOYEES**

Mr. Mike Landers (Saint John-Lancaster): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister had an opportunity to inquire into the roll-back of wages at the Atlantic Sugar Refineries of Saint John and, if so, what has he discovered?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The board arrived at the conclusion that it should allow a basic increase of 8.29 per cent on the basis that the previous contract had been reopened during its lifetime. Indeed, there had been an opportunity to catch up with the increase in the consumer price index. The board has indicated that it is meeting with the company today, and is likely to meet with the union tomorrow. It is prepared to consider the question again in light of the facts that either or both of those parties can bring to its attention.

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● (1450)

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**KNOWLEDGE OF MINISTER OF CONTENTS OF JUDGE LAMER'S EVIDENCE TO CRIME COMMISSION**

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I wish to ask a question of the Minister of Transport, following the question I put last week, March 24, to the Minister of Justice who gave me the following answer:

The chairman designate was appointed vice-chairman some four years ago, and apparently the matter was examined at that time by my predecessor.

As the Minister of Transport was that predecessor, I would like to ask him whether he was aware at that time that Judge Lamer, who was appointed chairman of the Law Reform Commission, had appeared in camera before Mr. Justice Réal Brunet of the commission of inquiry on organized crime and whether he knows the contents of the evidence given by Judge Lamer?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think there is a standing tradition not to address a question to a minister which relates to his previous responsibilities. I am sure my colleague will take notice of the question and report to the hon. member.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**ALLEGED AGREEMENT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UNITED STATES FOR ON-SIGHT INSPECTION OF NUCLEAR TESTS—REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION**

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Can the minister confirm that Soviet and United States negotiators have reached basic agreement on the need for on-sight inspection of each country's nuclear test sights?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): No, Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to confirm that.

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FINANCE**SUGGESTION OF ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS THAT FISCAL ARRANGEMENTS BE EXTENDED THREE YEARS—GOVERNMENT POSITION**

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance and I regret I have not had an opportunity to give him notice. With reference to the forthcoming meeting of finance ministers, will the minister give sympathetic consideration to the position of the Canadian Association of University Teachers that the fiscal arrangements be extended for three years. This is vital to the Atlantic provinces. Will the minister also take into consideration the inflation factor which has a great bearing not only on the College of Cape Breton but on all institutions of learning?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have had information of a similar kind from those two old friends, the hon. member for St. Boniface and the hon. member for Halifax on the same subject, bringing substantially the same message to my attention. I will take that into consideration and as the hon. member mentioned, this will be a matter for discussion in the next few days.

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AIR TRANSPORT**UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT OF SAFETY RULES AT AIRPORTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In light of the fact that new safety regulations limiting the size of carry-on baggage for commercial air flights will be uniformly enforced tomorrow—which indicates to me that safety has been sacrificed for some time—may I ask when the government will ensure that other safety rules are enforced uniformly at Department of Transport airports? For example, on the weekend of March 19 to 21 a member of the P.C. Nationals hockey team was permitted to carry on his skates at Ottawa and Halifax airports but was denied this privilege at Moncton airport. The explanation given was that Moncton airport is the headquarters for security and some officials might have been watching.

An hon. Member: There is an empty net over there.