

will not be the case because the measures we are taking are the same as those we have taken quite successfully in the past under the circumstances. I have every anticipation that things will continue normally.

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AIR TRANSPORT

CRASH OF PANARCTIC AIRCRAFT—DATE OF PUBLICATION OF REPORT

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport, and I should like to congratulate him on his shift in portfolio. Moving from justice to transport, he is uniquely situated now to answer on a topic that has been raised many times in the past year both by myself and other members. On October 14 the Minister of Transport stated that the report on the crash of a Panarctic plane in the Arctic would be released some time this week. Can the minister now produce the report, or have some new forms of obstruction prevented its completion? I would remind the minister that by the end of next week we will have reached the first anniversary of that sad occasion.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, may I thank the hon. member for his kind comments and assure him that in my new office I will try to leave the old one behind and seek legal advice from other quarters.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lang: I should like to confirm to hon. members opposite, who seem not to understand, that the lawyer members of this government have long found that to be a desirable principle to follow, one, to which we all try to adhere. I would tell the hon. member that the release of the report is imminent.

DATE OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Following the CBC program on the subject which graphically illustrated the confusion surrounding the attempts to investigate this unfortunate crash, can the minister tell the House when he will be bringing forward legislation to implement the independent accident investigation commission which was promised in the Speech from the Throne?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, work on that legislation is going forward and I am looking forward to bringing it in, though the House is preoccupied with many things these days. At the same time, we have been taking steps to look at and review our regulations touching this area, and some improvements in that regard will be forthcoming as well.

Oral Questions

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

EFFECT OF REFUSAL OF BID BY WHITE CONSOLIDATED TO TAKE OVER WESTINGHOUSE—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO PROTECT JOBS—POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF DEADLINE

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I should like to address a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce on a matter that is of some urgency to Canadian Westinghouse. Can the minister advise the House whether the government has made any progress toward the solution that I believe is required prior to October 31, which is the deadline? Has the minister anything to report to the House today?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Yes, Mr. Speaker. I am very glad to be able to tell the hon. member and the House in general that I met this morning with a number of the principals of one of the companies concerned. I think the hon. member will appreciate that at this moment in time, due to the delicacy of the negotiations, I would prefer not to be too specific. However, I can say that the meeting has resulted in a commitment to a further one within a week. In addition, the principals of two other companies involved will also be consulted by me during the same period.

I would not call this morning's meeting definitive—that is, that there were firm proposals put forward—but I certainly conveyed to all concerned the determination of the government of Canada to ensure that the 2,300 jobs, and incidentally several more ancillary jobs as well, will not be jeopardized and that we will see, to the best of our ability, that they are protected.

Mr. Alexander: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The date of October 31 seems to be quite important to General Steel Wares Limited since that is the expiration date of their contract. Will the negotiations be able to meet this deadline or are we talking of an extension of the time? Has the minister any information in that regard?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I inquired this morning whether or not the October 31 date was the finishing date for any options and no positive answer was available at this time. This is one of the questions my officials are now seeking an answer to, namely whether an extension is possible or there is some other means of keeping the application to buy open. I hope that early next week I will be able to provide the hon. member with more details in this connection. At the moment, the information available to me appears to be somewhat vague.

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POST OFFICE

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DELIVERY OF PENSION CHEQUES FROM UNITED STATES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Wise (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. In view of the present impasse in our postal system, and in view of the fact that contingency plans have been implemented by the government to ensure delivery of cheques by various means to recipients of CP, OAS, GIS, UIC and other benefits, may I