

monopoly of the Canadian Football League and the other minister's policy of promoting competition?

**Mr. Lalonde:** I think that the question itself indicates the very type of confusion that exists in the minds of members of the opposition on the whole issue of Canadian ownership and protection of a Canadian identity in this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

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## REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

PROGRESS OF PROGRAM TO DECENTRALIZE STAFF—  
ADVERTISING OF POSITIONS—NUMBER OF TRANSFERS

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In light of the advertisements appearing in newspapers across Canada this week for more than 25 senior staff positions in his department in various places across the country, can the minister indicate to the House whether in effect this means that transfers of people from the Ottawa area to the various regions and provincial capitals have been completed or whether that is to be continued, and the number of transfers that have already taken place?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion):** Mr. Speaker, I am not altogether certain I can answer in detail. I can say that the first phase of offering various positions to those who are eligible for such offers within the Public Service has been completed. This has now enabled us to carry out the second stage which is to have people from the regions in the various offices who know the conditions in those particular areas. Whether a full assessment of the total complement of people in each area has been completed by the various public service organizations is something I would have to check and give the hon. member a written reply.

● (1500)

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that to date there has been very little public information except for these advertisements, about the nature of the staffing arrangements in the various regions and provincial capitals and the extent of the transfers that have taken place, would the minister agree to make an early statement in the House or to make this information generally available so that we could be aware of the situation?

**Mr. Jamieson:** Of course, the situation changes daily, but to the extent that it exists at this moment in time I would be glad to make information on it available to the hon. member or to any other hon. member who wishes to see it.

## Oral Questions AIRPORTS

PICKERING—REQUEST THAT MINISTER HAVE  
REPRESENTATIONS MADE TO BOARD OF INQUIRY IN LIGHT OF  
NEW EVIDENCE

**Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In light of the statements made yesterday by the minister to the Canadian Railway Labour Association, the answers he has given today to the hon. member for Scarborough West respecting the Pickering airport proposal, and the fact that the independent inquiry that was set up is entitled to look into new evidence and the minister has indicated there is new evidence, would the minister be prepared to make representations through his department to the inquiry board respecting the kind of questions he alluded to yesterday and today?

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** In all honesty, Mr. Speaker, I think I cannot give an answer different from the one I gave a few minutes ago. I was just talking about things that could happen and did not happen, and I do not want to interfere in any way with the inquiry that is taking place.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Greenwood.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Speaker:** I apologize to the hon. member for Greenwood; the hon. member for Yukon rises on a question of privilege.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Mr. Speaker, I raised this question of privilege in the previous session in connection with the propriety of parliamentary secretaries, who are part of the ministry, taking up the time of the House by asking questions. Those hon. gentlemen, sir, have telephone lines open to them. Ministers' offices are open to them. Further, these hon. gentlemen are paid an extra \$4,000 a year to answer questions, not to ask them and spuriously take up the limited time of the question period which is supposed to be used by the opposition for eliciting information from the government.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member has raised this question previously. I have looked at past precedents and have found nothing in them, and certainly I cannot find anything in the rule book, which says that because parliamentary secretaries receive an additional emolument they are not allowed to ask questions. Neither can I agree with the hon. gentleman's proposition that the question period is reserved for the opposition.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Again, that is not so. If the hon. member would study the precedents and *Hansard* over past years he would see that that proposition is not supported by the precedents. However, I have tried to be as conciliatory as I can in this regard by, let us say, not encouraging parliamentary secretaries to ask questions because I really feel that to some extent there is a difficulty in that the Chair