

Oral Questions

bring the disputants together and get B.C. Telephone service back into operating shape?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of Labour): Yes, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member will be interested to know that one of our most able officers, the chief conciliation officer on the west coast, has been appointed today by myself to endeavour to see what he can do to bring the parties together to resolve this dispute. We will have to count on the parties to resolve their dispute. I urge them to accept the assistance of the mediator because we have gone through the entire dispute settlement process. We have supplied the service conciliation before. That failing, we appointed a commissioner in lieu of a conciliation board. The report of the commissioner was not acceptable to the company although it was to the union. I am hopeful that because of the ability of the mediator I have appointed, we might find a resolution to this dispute.

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AIR TRANSPORT

REMOVAL FROM AIRCRAFT OF ELECTRONIC LOCATER TRANSMITTERS—POSSIBILITY OF COMPENSATION FOR AIRCRAFT OWNERS

Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings): Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister of Transport a question regarding electronic locater transmitters. The department's policy some years ago was that private pilots had to install these in their aircraft. A few months ago the department asked that they be taken out. First, has the department any program to compensate pilots who have put in these ELT's which have not acted satisfactorily. Second, has the department any program to devise new ELT's which will work more effectively?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, there is no program for compensation. However, the department is very actively engaged in the work with the makers of the device to develop new appropriate batteries with which to recharge it. It was discovered, after it was operating, that the Lithium batteries were a danger. For that reason, they were removed. It is our hope that by the end of January something will have been developed in the way of a new facility.

Mr. Ellis: I thank the minister for his answer. Given the fact there is a possibility of a breakthrough in the lithium batteries, will the minister consider recompensing the pilots at least for the battery portion of ELT's that have gone bad?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, that is a matter to which we will have to give some consideration. It was, of course, a part of an aircraft which seemed to us to be an advantage. The discovery which was made that the lithium itself caused some danger was through no one's fault and probably would not, in precedent terms, justify compensation.

[Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich).]

NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION

ALLEGATION COMMISSION LIED ABOUT LAND PURCHASES IN HULL—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mrs. Jean E. Pigott (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Can the minister inform the House what measures have been taken to investigate allegations by the Quebec minister of public works that the National Capital Commission is a public liar with regard to details of the purchase of land in the city of Hull?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Mr. Speaker, those who live on the other side of the river and who are well aware of the kind of statements this elected Quebec representative makes regularly are not as concerned as the hon. member by these unfounded allegations. People living on the other side of the river are used to this kind of statements and simply ignore them.

[English]

Mrs. Pigott: While that may be true, Mr. Speaker, there are people on both sides of the river who would very much like to know what lands have been purchased and for what reason. Can we have a statement on this?

[Translation]

Mr. Ouellet: Mr. Speaker, I should be pleased to provide the hon. member with statistical data which categorically refute the statements made by the Quebec public works minister.

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PUBLIC WORKS

[English]

PROPOSED PENITENTIARY AT LONDON, ONTARIO—SITE LOCATION AND DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

Mr. R. E. McKinley (Huron-Middlesex): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works. As his department is responsible for the construction of federal penitentiaries, can he advise whether it is still the intention of the government to establish a penitentiary in London? If so, has a site been selected and when will construction begin?

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, negotiations are proceeding very satisfactorily with the city of London concerning location. The areas we are looking at are south of highway 401 in the industrial park. We hope to conclude arrangements very quickly.