

vide members in written answers with accurate information. I can understand that one specific minister or the Prime Minister might not be aware of information that has the significance this question has, but I think the House is entitled to some explanation of why there is a direct conflict between the oral answers of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and a written answer given me today. I shall not take the time of the House to cite the written answer today, but in light of the importance of the matter I think the ministers over there had better supply the House with consistent and accurate information.

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TAXATION

REQUEST BY TORONTO TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION THAT FEDERAL SALES TAX NOT APPLY TO PUBLIC TRANSIT VEHICLES

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. Has the Prime Minister passed on to the Minister of Finance the request of the Toronto Transportation Commission that the federal sales tax not apply to public transit vehicles and, if so, is the minister prepared to introduce the necessary change in the law?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter that we are, of course, reviewing. We have had similar requests from other municipalities. If any action is taken on this matter we will announce it in the House.

Mr. Hellyer: Would the minister give urgent consideration to this request as the federal contribution to urban transportation and to pollution control to the end that he could introduce a resolution this year when the tax laws are before the House?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the very fact that the hon. gentleman brings it to my attention makes it an urgent matter.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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AGRICULTURE

SHIPMENT OF HORSES TO EUROPE FOR SLAUGHTER— REQUEST FOR ACTION TO ELIMINATE

Mr. Barry Mather (Surrey-White Rock): Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to direct to the Minister of Agriculture. Having in mind the fact that the cruel trade involving the shipment of Canadian horses by sea for slaughter in Europe, has started again in the face of strong representations against it by all the humane societies in Canada, will the minister look into this situation with a view to stopping this unfortunate situation?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I have asked the department to carry out a lengthy study. I have received some of the reports. I can

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say, so far as we are concerned, that in respect of any shipments of horses they must be preconditioned, their age must be known and it must be known whether or not they are pregnant before they are loaded on a ship. If more than 25 are put on a ship they must be escorted by a veterinarian all the way across the ocean.

Mr. Mather: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the minister whether he and his department are aware of the fact that many of the horses which die during shipment are rolled overboard and also that the European people by whom they are received ridicule the requirements of his department?

Mr. Whelan: The records show that the health standards are that high because of the restrictions we are placing on them that the number of horses requested for shipment is away down. If there are signs that a horse is likely to die the veterinarian has orders to give an anaesthetic in order to put it out of its misery on board the ship. Every humane aspect is being looked at.

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PENITENTIARIES

REPORTED MEMORANDUM CHANGING SOME MEDIUM SECURITY INSTITUTIONS TO MAXIMUM—REQUEST FOR TABLING

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General I should like to direct a question to the Prime Minister. In view of published reports of a memorandum from the Commissioner of Penitentiaries to the prison directors, can the right hon. gentleman advise if it is now government policy to change some medium security institutions to maximum security institutions, and would the Prime Minister have this document tabled in the House so that we might understand the reasons behind the memorandum?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I would be pleased to take notice of the question on behalf of the Solicitor General.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We are about reaching the end of the question period. I was hoping we could see two or three questioners. However, if there are supplementaries we will just have to call orders of the day.

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AIR TRANSPORT

NAMING OF CANADIAN CARRIER TO LAND AT MILAN, ITALY—INQUIRY AS TO DECISION

Mr. Terry O'Connor (Halton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport, once again with regard to the awarding of reciprocal landing rights to a Canadian air carrier in Milan, Italy. In view of the fact the minister has on five separate occasions since last October indicated that the decision would be made very soon, is he in a position yet to advise the House when the decision will be made?