

Inquiries of the Ministry

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): May I take notice of that question, Mr. Speaker.

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BRIDGES**COMPLETION AND PUBLICATION OF REPORT ON FIRST NARROWS CROSSING, VANCOUVER**

Mr. Douglas A. Hogarth (New Westminster): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. Will the minister advise the House if the Swan Wooster Report with respect to the First Narrows crossing in Vancouver harbour has been completed, has the British Columbia government been informed, and will the report be made public?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, the report has been completed. It has been delivered to the government of British Columbia and I believe to the municipalities. If members of the public are interested, I see no reason why we would not be able to make copies available.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS**LENNOX ISLAND RESERVE—SAFE MEANS OF TRAVELLING TO MAINLAND**

Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Can he indicate to the House what steps are being taken by his department to ensure that there will be no loss of life this winter among Indian people who must travel from Lennox Island to the mainland of Prince Edward Island?

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): I have no specific answer to that question, Mr. Speaker. The situation remains the same. Unfortunately these people are living on an island and they have to cross the channel. We try to advise them as best we can, and there is no other way. We cannot build a bridge immediately or next week. Anyway, I do not know if it would be economic to build a bridge.

Mr. MacDonald (Egmont): In view of the fact that a number of Indians have lost their lives because of inadequate transportation, would the minister make a statement on motions shortly in order that this serious problem can be alleviated?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to make a statement on this subject. We are constantly examining the situation, and I am inclined to think that we will not have to deplore any loss of life this winter.

[Mr. Baldwin.]

[English]

AIR TRANSPORT**TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY TO INVESTIGATE CRASHES TO INDEPENDENT BODY**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In light of the very serious situation that has arisen out of the crash of the DC-8 in Toronto last July, would the minister give serious consideration to the removal from his department of the responsibility for investigating such incidents and place it in the hands of an independent inquiry commission or board, so that the families of the victims may not in future have to go through the trials visited upon them as a result of the confusion arising out of this investigation?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I certainly reject what I deduce to be the allegation in the final observation of the hon. member because I am totally satisfied that the investigation of this unfortunate incident was thorough and objective. However, with respect to the broader question he raised, as I have stated previously I have no objection in principle to some other arrangement being made with regard to the investigation of accidents. The difficulty is that there is virtually no unanimity among all the parties concerned on what the technique ought to be. However, the matter is getting ongoing attention, and if a better arrangement can be devised we will be glad to implement it.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**NEWFOUNDLAND—REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT OF TRAIN SERVICE**

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the almost complete breakdown of bus passenger service in Newfoundland, and the recent almost near tragedy when a bus with 25 passengers was lost for 12 hours, would the minister take the necessary action to have rail passenger service reinstated in Newfoundland?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I too noted, with a great deal of regret, that a bus had difficulty during a very severe snowstorm for a matter of 12 hours. I would be much more interested in the hon. member's suggestion if I still did not have very vivid memories of being stuck for four days on the Newfie Bullet half way across Newfoundland.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, would the minister give consideration to providing the travelling public in Newfoundland with a service equal to that to be provided in northern Ontario—dayliner service?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.