

Oral Questions

for eight years without a review of routine maintenance procedures?

● (1430)

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Transport): I have had a report on both these incidents and they are presently being investigated by the Department of Transport. I will report further when the results are available to me.

Mr. McKenzie: At the Justice Dubin air safety inquiry, Transport Canada civil aviation inspectors stated that Canada's air safety monitoring system was "in a shambles". Since the Dubin inquiry will not be completed until October, 1980, will the minister launch an immediate investigation and, further, request pilot training in Canada for landing 747s on one engine? Finally, I think we should ask the minister to relay our congratulations to the pilot and his crew for a job well done.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Pepin: I will relay the hon. member's compliments to the pilot. As to the meat of the question, this was exactly the purpose of the creation of the Dubin commission. I would think the judge would be quite annoyed if I were to set up another commission to do the work he is supposed to do. He is doing it very well, I believe, at this time.

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HOUSING

PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE CONSTRUCTION OF FAMILY UNITS

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, my question is to the minister responsible for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. According to press reports this past weekend, the minister has apparently promised aid to the construction industry rather than to home owners and tenants who are suffering very much as a result of the housing crisis.

Will the minister assure us that he will not repeat the mistakes of his predecessors by reintroducing tax shelters similar to the ARP-MURB program, the assisted rental program, which subsidized developers and encouraged them to build luxury bachelor suites, destroyed family housing and resulted in a net loss of rental units for low income families?

Hon. Paul J. Cosgrove (Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, I am happy to tell the hon. member that the two programs the government intends to present, which will be modifications of existing programs, will not only benefit existing home owners or tenants but will be of some help to people first coming into the market, as well as of some help to the industry generally. But they would constitute a modest intervention by CMHC at this time, bearing in mind the problems about which the Minister of Finance has cautioned the House.

Mrs. Mitchell: Is the minister aware of a number of reports, including one from the Canadian Council on Social Develop-

ment, which proved beyond a doubt that past programs such as capital cost allowances of the kind which I presume he is proposing have cost taxpayers approximately \$65 million a year, while making possible huge profits for developers?

Since non-profit housing creates just as many jobs in our economy, will the minister increase the funding for affordable, non-profit housing instead of providing these tax rip-offs for developers, encouraging them to build high-cost housing which we do not need?

Mr. Cosgrove: I am confident the hon. member opposite will be very pleased with the announcement the government will be making shortly. It will represent modest help to the industry, renters and present home owners, though certainly it will not be on the scale of the many millions of dollars the hon. member has mentioned. It will be a modest program.

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SPORTS

HOLDING OF NATIONAL TRIALS—RECOGNITION BY GOVERNMENT

Mr. Joe Reid (St. Catharines): Madam Speaker, my question would have been directed to the minister responsible for amateur sport, but in his absence and in the absence of the parliamentary secretary to that minister I will direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister. The question arises from a recent indication by a representative of one of our national sport federations that national trials would be cancelled, in spite of the recent announcement by the responsible minister that \$1.5 million would become available for quality competition among Canadian athletes, which presupposes a declaration of national champions.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister now tell us whether or not the national associations or governing bodies of amateur sports in Canada will proceed through Olympic trials to a declaration of national champions and, should such national champions be declared, whether they will be appropriately recognized by the government?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): I regret I cannot give the hon. member the information he requires, but I will make inquiries and ensure he has it by the earliest possible date.

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CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

JURISDICTION OVER FLAX AND RAPESEED

Mr. Charles Mayer (Portage-Marquette): Madam Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport, who is also responsible to the House for the Canadian Wheat Board. As the minister knows, the Wheat Board does not now have complete control over flax and rape. Is he aware of any move by the board to assume more complete control, and thus