Inquiries of the Ministry

INDUSTRY

STEPS TO OVERCOME ALLEGED CONFLICT BETWEEN PROGRAMS AND REGULATIONS DESIGNED TO BENEFIT BUSINESS

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce arising out of a statement he is reported to have made that the government's programs and regulations designed for the benefit of business in Canada are not only numerous but also mutually conflicting and often work at cross-purposes. Can the minister tell the House briefly what steps he is taking to overcome this maze of conflicting and counter-productive regulations and plans the government is now working with?

Mr. Speaker: The minister would have to do this very briefly because the hon. member is inviting the minister to make a statement of a very general nature which normally should be made on motions. If the minister can reply briefly, he might be allowed the floor for that purpose.

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, simply by developing a better synchronization between departments of the federal government and between federal and provincial authorities; between governments and industry.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister how long he expects these consultations with business and labour and the various government departments and provincial governments to take and when he thinks he will be ready to announce a national policy with economic and social purposes for the programs he has in mind?

Mr. Pepin: If my hon, friend is referring to the development of a new industrial strategy. The best answer I can give is later rather than sooner.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister this question. I note his statement that it would be later rather than sooner, which is, of course, very encouraging to Canadians and Canada's economy. I should like to ask the minister whether he would undertake to make a statement to the House at an appropriate time in the next little while outlining precisely the programs which are now in conflict, work at cross-purposes and do not do their job from his point of view, so that members of the House may consider the obviously chaotic conditions over which he presides?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, if all these problems were already solved there would be no need for an effort toward an improved industrial strategy. Solving conflicts is what we are trying to do now. I made a statement yesterday in Edmonton, copies of which are obviously available and will be available, which is the first effort on my part to define the problems. The Prime Minister and others have worked also at developing a process by which, in consultation with industry, labour and the provinces, we will develop in the coming months a clearer, better, improved industrial strategy, and I swear to God I will be working all summer at it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

SECURITY MEASURES AT CANADIAN AIRPORTS TO PREVENT HIJACKING

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Are additional security steps being taken in Canadian airports in connection with international flights throughout the world since the recent incident at Tel Aviv and others here and there in various countries?

[English

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can assure the House and the hon. member that security measures of quite an intensive nature are now in effect at most major airports in Canada, particularly at Montreal. We are taking extraordinary measures with regard to flights destined for what might be described as delicate areas of the world where in recent times there have been some unfortunate incidents.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: I have a supplementary, Mr. Speaker.

At the beginning of April, at Orly airport, all passengers were searched before boarding an Air Canada plane. No matter whether or not a member, the search was carried on. Were those doing the searching employees of the Canadian government or of the French government?

[English]

Mr. Jamieson: I am afraid I would have to take that portion of the question as notice. To my knowledge, at foreign airports these people would be under the jurisdiction of the airlines concerned, but on the specific case in point I would have to ask the necessary questions of the Air Canada officials.

NATIONAL SECURITY

ALLEGED PRESENCE IN CANADA ON MARCH 4 OF KOZO OKAMOTO, LONE SURVIVOR OF ASSASSINS INVOLVED IN TEL AVIV AIRPORT MASSACRE

Mr. Eldon M. Woolliams (Calgary North): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Solicitor General. Can he advise the House now whether Kozo Okamoto, the lone survivor of the group of three Japanese involved in the Tel Aviv Airport incident, was in Canada on March 4, 1972, what the nature of his activities was and, in particular, was he involved in activities with the FLQ?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, the question of finding out whether or not that individual was in Canada is now being investigated.

[English

Mr. Woolliams: I did not rise immediately, Mr. Speaker, to ask my supplementary question because it took me a little while to get the answer of the minister through the