

Order Paper Questions

2. The airport management is making a serious effort to control and reduce operations and maintenance expenditures. Fundamental changes in the Montreal area airports system, which could result in reduced losses at Mirabel, are under consideration.

3. The proposal to transfer certain flights from Dorval to Mirabel is now being assessed in order to determine the costs associated with this course of action (as well as several other possible options).

4. No expansion is currently planned at Mirabel. Future plans will take into account the results of the assessment described above.

GREAT LAKES FOREST RESEARCH CENTRE

Question No. 1,896—**Mr. Blenkarn:**

1. How many persons are employed at the Great Lakes Forestry Research Centre located at Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario?

2. Did the government negotiate with the province of Ontario to turn over the research centre to the province?

3. Does the province contribute to the cost of operating the research centre?

4. Is the government infringing on provincial responsibility by attempting to provide management services through its facilities in Sault Ste. Marie and, if so, for what reason?

5. What is the total cost, including depreciation on land and buildings, involved in managing the research centre?

Mr. Roger Simmons (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): 1. The Great Lakes Forest Research Centre currently has 152 full-time person years.

2. There are no negotiations with the province of Ontario to transfer the centre to the province.

3. The province does not contribute to any operational costs.

4. There is no infringement on the province by the centre. The Canadian Forestry Service at the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre does not provide forest management services. The Canadian Forestry Service undertakes a forestry and environmental research and development program, co-ordinates federal forestry activities in Ontario, participates in national programs including the Forest Resource Data Program and the Forest Insect and Disease Survey, and provides technical information to the province of Ontario in support of its forest management responsibility.

5. The total budget for 1980-81 for operating all programs at the Great Lakes Forest Research Centre is \$4,583,200.

[*Translation*]

Madam Speaker: The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT, 1981-82

SUPPLEMENTARY BORROWING AUTHORITY

Hon. Pierre Bussières (for the Minister of Finance) moved that Bill C-59, to provide supplementary borrowing authority, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Madam Speaker, Bill C-59 now before the House seeks borrowing authority of \$14 billion for the 1981-82 fiscal year. One of its provisions provides that all outstanding and unused borrowing authority provided by the new act, to the extent that it exceeds \$3 billion, will expire on March 31, 1982. The bill also seeks explicit authorization for the government to borrow in foreign currencies as well as in Canadian dollars.

Mr. Speaker, much of what I have to say now was said earlier by the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) when he spoke in the House on second reading of Bill C-54. As hon. members will remember, Bill C-54 contained a provision, Clause 1 if I am not mistaken, that requested precisely that borrowing authority. However, following Your Honour's ruling, the government had to introduce a separate bill that has become Bill C-59, the Borrowing Authority Act. Even though the Minister of Finance has already made those comments, I want to reiterate the main points that he made earlier relating to borrowing authority so that there remains no doubt about why we are seeking \$14 billion of new borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1981-82.

All unused borrowing authority for the fiscal year 1980-81 provided by the Borrowing Authority Act 1980-81 will expire on March 31, 1981. Without new borrowing powers the government will be unable to implement its debt program for 1981-82. As hon. members are aware, the size of the borrowing authority is related to the size of the government's financial requirements. It will be recalled that the budget which was introduced to Parliament on October 28, 1980, indicated that programmed budgetary and non-budgetary cash requirements for 1981-82 were expected to be about \$11 billion. The basis for the request for \$14 billion of new borrowing authority for the next fiscal year is, therefore, this cash requirement along with a \$3 billion margin for such contingencies as the possible need to borrow in foreign currencies.

As hon. members will recall, the budget of last October clearly set out the government's strategy of reducing the deficit through restraint in the rate of growth of expenditures. The budgetary deficit is expected to decline from \$14.2 billion this fiscal year to \$13.7 billion next year and to \$11.8 billion by 1983-84. Throughout this period, there are rising sources of funds from non-budgetary accounts that help to finance the budgetary deficit. The most important of these sources is the