

● (1430)

Mr. Hees: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Bob Nixon's old time picnic is not the kind of dinner that I had in mind. Has the Prime Minister taken into consideration the fact that if he can improve his image with people in this way—and I assure him that the scope for improving his image with people is unlimited—he might find it unnecessary in the future to have his two limousines made bullet proof, as is the case today, and this would be a great saving to the people?

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PROPOSED RECONSIDERATION OF SALE OF CANDU REACTOR TO SOUTH KOREA—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to return to the subject of Canadian nuclear reactors and direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Has the secretary of state seen the letter to the *Globe and Mail* from General Burns, who is well known as the Canadian representative at numerous disarmament conferences and an expert in the field, to the effect that the sale of a nuclear reactor to South Korea might lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and eventual nuclear war; and in light of the announcement by the government of South Korea that a state of war emergency now exists in that country, will the government now agree that Korea is not an area where we should risk adding to the possibility of nuclear war by such a sale?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the letter to which the hon. gentleman refers; I will look it up. In the meantime, I want to assure my hon. friend that we have taken every conceivable step to ensure that any Canadian supply of nuclear equipment will not be used for explosive purposes.

Mr. Brewin: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The best step of all would be to make it clear that we are not negotiating for the sale of a nuclear reactor to that country. May I ask the minister whether he is aware of the statement in *Newsweek* of July 7 that South Korea is now on the threshold of joining the nuclear club, and is it not midsummer madness for Canada to supply material to South Korea that can be converted to this process?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, I take the hon. member's comments as a representation which we will consider as we develop our negotiations with South Korea for the bilateral agreement. We have taken the decision to provide a nuclear power reactor to South Korea because of the great demand by that country for electricity. It is heavily dependent at present upon imported oil and it must seek alternative sources of electricity. It is for that purpose that we are providing the nuclear reactor under the tightest possible safeguards.

Oral Questions

POST OFFICE

POSSIBILITY OF TURNING OVER OPERATIONS TO CROWN CORPORATION—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Alan Martin (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Postmaster General. In view of the fact that mail service in the borough of Scarborough continues to operate at a level well below standards acceptable to the 375,000 residents of the borough, will the minister indicate what progress may have been made toward a new study or an updating of earlier studies dealing with the probable advantages and disadvantages of transferring the operations of the Department of the Post Office to a Crown corporation?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I would refer the hon. gentleman to one of Canada's impeccable sources of information, *Time* magazine of July 7, which might give the hon. member some indication of what happens when post offices become Crown corporations.

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AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON STUDIES FOR NEW RUNWAY AND ASSURANCE OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Would the Minister of Transport tell the House what stage the studies of the proposed new runway at the international airport in Vancouver have reached, especially in view of the fact that in early 1973 the then Minister of the Environment for the government said those studies would be completed within one year?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, may I thank the hon. gentleman for giving me notice of the question he was going to put this afternoon. As he knows, there are a few reports—I do not know how many—dealing with different aspects of the new runway and I think all of the reports are now in. It will be a matter of weeks before we can put them all together and file them with the House.

Mr. Fraser: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. May I thank the minister for the information he has given us. Can he say whether among the various studies that have been done, some with respect to salmon propagation, others with respect to noise, etc., there is any single study that asks the question whether or not the new runway is necessary and in the interests of the citizens of the area?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I shall have to wait to see all of the reports that have been made on this question.

Mr. Fraser: A final supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. When these studies are brought together, as the minister has indicated will be the case within the next few weeks, can he give the House an assurance, and especially the citizen groups in the Vancouver area, that there will