

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

corporations of this kind to be run as good business ventures. We make the same sort of representations to private companies to do the same thing. We are quite confident that these Crown corporations will pay as much attention as private companies, and I hope a little more to our requests.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I hesitate to interrupt the minister but I see a number of members are trying to ask questions who have been unsuccessful so far. I am trying to get to them as soon as possible.

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**AIR CANADA**

## PROPOSED LAY-OFF OF EMPLOYEES AT EDMONTON

**Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Would the minister look into the immediate intention of Air Canada to lay off employees in the Edmonton area, in particular the three baggage loading personnel and six charming ground hostesses? Air Canada has deprived Edmonton of extra flights and is now downgrading its personnel and service at this international airport.

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I will be glad to look into the matter.

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**TRANSPORT**

## FREIGHT RATE LEVEL IN PRAIRIE PROVINCES—ACTION TO REMOVE DISCRIMINATION

**Mr. R. R. Southam (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Minister of Transport. It is related to the question put to him just prior to the Christmas recess concerning the excessively high freight rates presently existing in many parts of western Canada. He stated that soon after the first of the year he or his officials would look into the matter. Is he now in a position to report on what progress has been made?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, shortly before Christmas I had some telephone discussions with Premier Thatcher of Saskatchewan and as a result, a mutually agreeable date, I think within this present week, was agreed upon for officials to travel to Saskatoon for the initial discussions. I will be going there within a matter of a couple of weeks to follow this up.

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**WELFARE**

## DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON PHASING OUT OF DIRECT PAYMENTS BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. In view of the

[Mr. Sharp.]

statement of the health and welfare minister of Quebec at the recent conference, does the federal government plan to enter into discussions with the Quebec government and other provincial governments so that direct payments to persons on social welfare by the federal government would be phased out and replaced by a more global approach administered by the provinces?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I have made it plain, as have other members of this government, to all provincial governments that the government of Canada considers that the constitutional right to make payments directly to individuals in all parts of Canada is an integral part of Canadian confederation and will not be abandoned.

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**AIRPORTS**

## REGINA—MEETINGS WITH CITY REGARDING SALE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY

**Mr. John Burton (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. Can the minister indicate whether any progress was made at the meetings this week with the city of Regina concerning the proposed sale of land by the city to the federal Department of Transport at the Regina airport, and can he give any indication when we may expect to have an agreement signed on this matter and also dealing with the future operation of Regina airport?

**Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport):** Considerable progress was made at the meetings this week with the mayor of Regina and other officials of that city. As I recall the timetable, we are going to Regina practically at the same time as the meetings will be held in Saskatoon to which I referred a few minutes ago, and I would hope that if we do not resolve the matter completely at that time it will be sufficiently advanced so that the contracts can be signed and the whole deal completed within the present year.

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**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

## CUTBACK IN HOUSING CONSTRUCTION ON CLANDEBOYE AND FISHER RIVER RESERVES

**Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. On January 20 when I made a request of the minister for an accelerated housing program on Indian reserves the minister replied that he had asked officials of his department to hasten this project in order to supply Indians with employment this winter. Is the minister aware of the cutback in housing on the Clandeboye and Fisher River district reserves in Manitoba and would he look into the matter to determine why this program has been cut back at this time?