

Oral Questions

● (1442)

AIR SAFETY FACILITIES AT AIRPORTS

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport on the same matter. The minister will recall I questioned him in the Transport committee on his intention with regard to the establishment of certain minimum standards at airports of the type at Cranbrook where this tragic accident occurred. I made reference in particular to the airport at Dawson Creek, B.C., where there is no air-to-ground communication of any kind, no firefighting equipment of any kind, and daily jet aircraft of the type which suffered this unfortunate accident when landing at Cranbrook.

Has the minister instructed his officials to make a survey of these kinds of airports and compile minimum standards to be followed at them, and will he advise whether the particular situation in Dawson Creek is being rectified at the present time?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I made it clear, in answer to an earlier question, that where air traffic control is desirable or required, it is being examined: it is constantly being examined against certain criteria, and we are now examining the criteria themselves. We have been changing from air radio control to air traffic control, or from air radio to air traffic control, from time to time. Not long ago we did so with regard to another airport in British Columbia. Interestingly enough, at that time one of the Conservative members of parliament urged that we not make that change because they were so satisfied with the air radio service that was there: they did not want air traffic control. Notwithstanding that, our standards indicate when the number of movements requires air traffic control to be put in place. We are re-examining these figures.

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ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

PETER TREU CASE—ALLEGED RESTRICTION ON FACTS BEING DISCUSSED

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for either the Minister of Justice or the Solicitor General, whoever has the ultimate responsibility. It deals with the case of one Alexander Peter Treu recently convicted after a secret trial under the Official Secrets Act and sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

Can the hon. gentleman advise of the nature of the restrictions placed on Mr. Treu to prevent him from discussing any aspects of the facts of this case, this having taken place at the time of the conviction, the sentence and the application for bail on leave to appeal? Were such instructions given by the government to counsel to press for such restrictions? Would these restrictions have the effect of prohibiting myself or any other member of parliament from discussing the facts of the case with Mr. Treu?

[Mr. Lang.]

Hon. Ron Basford (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, the restrictions placed on Dr. Treu were, I understand, as a result of an order on a bail application made by the judge in question. Therefore, it is not up to me; it is not a governmental decision but a judicial decision, which surely the hon. member understands.

Whether the hon. member is free to discuss the case with Dr. Treu or not would remain to be seen by the wording of the precise order, which I do not have in front of me but which I would be happy to consider. However, it is not my position, as Minister of Justice, to advise members of parliament as to what are their rights. If the hon. member feels he has a right to consult with Dr. Treu, that is for him to exercise. It is not up to the government to advise members of parliament as to what are their rights.

Mr. Baldwin: I suppose the latter part of that answer might properly mean inquiring what facilities might be available to members of parliament. I would like to ask this supplementary. At the time of the conviction, the judge stated that Mr. Treu was not a criminal in the regular sense of the word. After the investigation commenced, Dr. Treu was continuing to receive the documents. After the trial commenced, NATO awarded to Dr. Treu and/or his company a contract dealing with classified communications systems.

Will the minister obtain and table in this House a transcript of the comments of the trial judge at the time of the conviction and at the time of the sentencing, so that we can determine whether there was a case of security or whether there was an element of bureaucratic bungling?

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to obtain what I can and table it in the House. The hon. member referred to bureaucratic bungling, and on this morning's CBC radio broadcast he alleged that the Official Secrets Act in this particular case was being used to cover up government corruption, both of which are, of course, obviously denied.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford: I am rather startled that the hon. member would use his words so loosely both this morning and this afternoon. I will do as he has requested and table in the House that which is available.

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POST OFFICE

PLANS TO PREVENT INCIDENTS LEADING TO WORKERS BEING SENT HOME

Mr. F. A. Philbrook (Halton): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. In view of the silly and insulting behaviour of some inside postal workers toward management at the main Ottawa terminal on May 11, resulting in workers being sent home and police being called in, does the Postmaster General have any plans to prevent such an incident and