

Inquiries of the Ministry

circumstances. If the solution is satisfactory, that is fine, but what is going to be the cost to get that solution?

Mr. Andras: I think I have indicated that when all these alleged facts are established as facts and not allegations, I will be glad to make them known to the House.

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[Translation]

AIR CANADA

TROIS-RIVIÈRES—DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE

Mr. Claude-G. Lajoie (Trois-Rivières): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

Could he tell the House how far things have gone with regard to Air Canada's intention to discontinue its air service to Trois-Rivières?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, so far as I am aware Air Canada have made known their intention to the Canadian Transport Commission, the body which deals with all such applications, but I do not believe it has been disposed of yet.

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WELFARE

INCREASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO PROVINCES TO MEET PAYMENT OF COSTS

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): I have a supplementary question for the Acting Prime Minister related to earlier questions on the economy. In light of the Prime Minister's comment yesterday that he is desirous of meeting with the provinces with a view to reviewing the Canada Assistance Plan and other programs, can we construe from that that the government is prepared, if methods can be found, to pour more money into the provinces to help offset the cost of those programs under their jurisdictions during the coming winter?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): If the levels of unemployment are higher than had been expected, with a resulting increase in relief, of course our expenditures will rise because we pay half of these costs.

Mr. Forrestall: My question was designed to ascertain from the Acting Prime Minister whether or not he would indicate if the government, in light of the Prime Minister's comment yesterday, is prepared to find methods of putting more money, not only the normal increases but additional funds, into the hands of the provinces?

• (12:10 p.m.)

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, I could not give any such assurance. I am quite sure that the provinces will be urging the federal government to take up a greater share of these costs, but what the position of the federal government will be I could not say for certain. At the moment, we are not considering any change in the arrangements.

[Mr. Lambert (Edmonton West).]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

DENIAL OF PASSPORT TO ELMER HILL—STATUS AS CANADIAN CITIZEN

Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is the hon. gentleman aware that when Mr. Elmer Hill, a Mohawk Indian born near Deseronto, Ontario, sought to acquire a passport he was advised by telephone on two occasions by the passport office here in Ottawa that he would first have to become a Canadian citizen?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I will inquire into the situation and report, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. Would he be prepared, if he has not done so already, to make a declaration that people of Indian origin, born in Canada, are Canadian citizens?

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

REQUEST FOR STUDIES ON EXPECTED PROBLEMS THIS WINTER

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Acting Prime Minister supplementary to that of my colleague a few moments ago. In view of the statement he made earlier in the question period that the government has access to more facts than the opposition and the general public about the economic affairs of Canada, can he indicate whether any special studies have been made regarding expected economic problems in Canada this winter, and whether we can expect any of these studies to be made public?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, there are studies under way continuously, and needless to say we are making a very special study of the kind of conditions that will prevail this winter. Whether these can be published, or whether it would be in the public interest to publish them, I am not quite sure. Certainly, however, the results would be revealed if the government decided to make any changes in its policies.

Mr. Lundrigan: Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a supplementary question to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration. In light of the press conference that he held yesterday, can he indicate when he discovered that Canada has an expanding labour force, and how—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Moose Jaw.

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ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY

DECISION ON POSSIBLE INCREASE IN TOLLS—REQUEST FOR REFERENCE OF CARR REPORT TO COMMITTEE

Mr. John L. Skoberg (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport. In view of