

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

PROPOSED PAROLING OF PENITENTIARY INMATES TO HOMES OF SENIOR CITIZENS—INQUIRY AS TO COMPLETION OF STUDY AND ACTION

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Solicitor General. As the Solicitor General and his departmental officials have been studying the feasibility of the placement of persons released from penal institutions in the homes of senior citizens who are willing and volunteer for the program, has the Solicitor General completed his study of this program, and what action does he intend to take?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean-Pierre Goyer (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I met with the members of the pensioners association in Vancouver and they support the program almost unanimously. However, they asked if it would eventually be extended to include all age groups of society. This suggestion is now under consideration in this new perspective.

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• (1140)

NATIONAL DEFENCE

ALLEGED DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FEMALES RESPECTING MOVING COSTS—SUGGESTED AMENDMENT OF ACT

Mr. Albert Béchard (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Defence.

Does the Minister or his Department intend to bring in soon amendments to the National Defence Act and Regulations with regard to Canadian Forces personnel in order to do away with what is, in my view, an unacceptable situation and a scandalous discrimination in this age of women's liberation, discrimination—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member is making a speech. If he wishes to ask a question, he should do so without presenting an argument.

Mr. Béchard: Does the Minister intend to do away with a situation whereby the single female personnel of the Canadian Forces are discriminated against, compared with that of their single or married male companions, with regard to their expenses for moving from one base to another?

[English]

Hon. E. J. Benson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I do not admit to the discrimination.

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AIR CANADA

POSITION OF PROPOSED PURCHASE OF TRI-JET AIRCRAFT

Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Industry, Trade

Inquiries of the Ministry

and Commerce. Is the proposed purchase by Air Canada of tri-jet aircraft going forward at a speed sufficient so as not to place in jeopardy subcontracts flowing from this purchase to the Canadian air industry?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): I am unacquainted with the matter, Mr. Speaker. I will bring it to the attention of the Minister of Transport immediately.

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POLLUTION

THREAT FROM SUNKEN "IRVING WHALE"—REASON FOR NOT AWARDING CONTRACT FOR REMOVAL OF VESSEL OR CONTENTS

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Transport I should like to direct a question to the parliamentary secretary or to the acting minister concerning the *Irving Whale* which is a serious ecological threat to Prince Edward Island. Can he advise whether the failure to award contracts to any of those who submitted tenders for the removal of the ship or its contents resulted from the high cost of these tenders or were the reasons technological or others?

[Translation]

Mr. Gérard Duquet (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I shall take notice of the question and submit it to the Department.

Mr. René Matte (Champlain): Mr. Speaker, I raise a question of privilege.

A moment ago, I asked the Prime minister a question that he did not answer. He merely took this opportunity to make a quip to cheer up my Liberal colleagues from Quebec. Mr. Speaker, it is most annoying to find that my Liberal colleagues are in such a state of trauma because the majority of their constituents voted for the parti québécois that they have only one word—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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[English]

NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFSHORE MINERAL RIGHTS—STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH NOVA SCOTIA

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the right hon. Prime Minister. It has to do with the present state of negotiations between the federal government and the government of Nova Scotia with regard to the offshore mineral rights issue. Which government now has the initiative, the government of Canada or the government of Nova Scotia, and which is waiting to hear from the other in respect of resolving this vital issue?