

*Inquiries of the Ministry***ORAL QUESTION PERIOD****RESEARCH**

LETTER FROM DR. O. M. SOLANDT RESPECTING SCIENCE POLICY

air traffic controllers has been the point at issue between the controllers association and the department for some years. They have complained about the fact that there are not enough of them to do the increasingly important and expanding job. Why it has taken the department until now to realize that they have to start getting more people and training them for this important job, God only knows. I just do not understand this long delay. I hope that the minister and the department this time will really undertake the job of recruitment and training with an eye to the next decade or so, because the job is an important one, the training requires time, and I hope there will be a sufficient work force to do the job properly.

The second point I want to make is that I do not know why the second volume of the Robinson report is being tabled only today. I suppose it has only recently been received. As a matter of fact, I am ashamed to admit that I had forgotten there was a second volume which parliament had not yet seen, even though it is almost three years since Judge Robinson was appointed. I hope that the figure of 75 per cent of the recommendations which have been implemented is not merely a quantitative figure but also a qualitative one. You can implement niggling things that do not mean anything and have them add up to 75 per cent. From what air traffic controllers have told me I have a strong suspicion that the arithmetic is of that kind and that some of the really important matters about which Judge Robinson was concerned have not yet been implemented.

Finally, I want to draw to the minister's attention the fact that there is still a great deal of objection from residents in the area to the proposed extension of one of the Toronto runways, and those of us in the Toronto area at least who are in the house have received briefs from an association that is deeply concerned about that. I hope the minister will meet with these people and satisfy them that whatever is to be done is essential, necessary, and will not be done at the expense of their comfort and welfare.

The matter of the air traffic controllers has taken far too long, for a start at least, to give us a sufficient work force to assure not only the safety of the people travelling by air but also to ensure that the welfare of the air traffic controllers themselves will be protected and that their lives will not be darkened by overwork and overanxiety.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, but since he is not in the house I will put a different question to the Prime Minister asking him whether he has replied to the letter from Dr. O. M. Solandt dated January 6 concerning science policy. In view of the fact that Dr. Solandt's letter has been published in the Science Council's report tabled in this house, will the Prime Minister table his own reply?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I will look into the matter. I must confess that I am not familiar with the letter to which the Leader of the Opposition has just referred.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a supplementary question for the President of the Treasury Board arising out of criticism concerning the past year contained in Dr. Solandt's letter. Can the President of the Treasury Board say if the Science Council has now received approximations of federal spending on science for 1969-70? At the same time can the minister assure the house that the Science Council will be given the necessary information next year early enough for it to be of use to the council in the manner indicated by Dr. Solandt?

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board): I think Dr. Solandt was addressing himself rather more to the general problem of the lack of adequate statistics in Canada relating to expenditures on research and development. The Science Council has had and will continue to have made available to them all the figures that the government has in relation to its expenditures on research and development. I think Dr. Solandt was concerned rather more with the general lack of information from government channels in relation to expenditures on research and development outside the government sector.

Mr. Stanfield: It is clear that Dr. Solandt was critical of the role of the government in this matter and I hope the minister can give us some assurance that the situation is being corrected. May I ask whether the government