

*Inquiries of the Ministry*

asked of the Acting Prime Minister, not of the President of the Privy Council. In any event, though I hesitate to prejudge the matter, it seems to me to be argumentative.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Mr. Speaker, nothing has made me happier than the direction you have given me, and I think it is proper. May I ask the question of the Acting Prime Minister, because he is well aware of the facts. Is it now government policy that confidential information and information of the kind we have been discussing will now be pre-taped?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any policy, but as I indicated the government took the decision to do it in this case. I am sure that anything as complex and technical as were the factors entering into a decision of this kind would justify the use and preparation of electronic press releases, as was done in this case. I would recommend it to anybody who was dealing with a situation as complex and difficult as this. I would recommend it to my hon. friend sometimes too.

**Mr. Woolliams:** May I ask one further supplementary question. Did the minister's colleagues in the government approve of the decision that he and the other minister took in this regard?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**POTATOES****FLOOR PRICES—ACREAGE PAYMENTS**

**Hon. J. A. MacLean (Malpeque):** Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the Minister of Agriculture. Has the minister any announcement to make as a result of a meeting held today between a delegation from Prince Edward Island and the stabilization board regarding the possibility of a floor price for potatoes to take effect in June owing to the very unsatisfactory level of potato prices for the past three years, over and above the diversion program that has already been announced?

**Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, we had a very useful exchange with regard to this problem and the magnitude of the problem. A number of administrative considerations would have to be taken into account in the kind of program suggested by the hon. member. However, I am not prepared to make a statement today. Indeed, I think it will take several days to consider all

the matters that must be considered before an announcement can be made.

**Mr. David MacDonald (Egmont):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the minister would indicate, in view of the fact that time is very short for potato growers in Prince Edward Island and other parts of the Atlantic region, whether he or his government is giving consideration to instituting again this season acreage payments somewhat similar to those enacted last season?

**Mr. Olson:** No, Mr. Speaker. The information that has come to me during the last few months indicates that, in fact, the potato growers do not like that kind of program.

**Mr. MacDonald (Egmont):** A further supplementary question. Can the minister assure the house that whatever steps are taken will be taken in time to give assistance this growing season to the potato producers of Prince Edward Island?

**Mr. Olson:** What is in time and what is not is, of course, always relative. We want to be as helpful as we can in what we recognize to be a very severe market situation.

**AIR CANADA****DORVAL—ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE ON MAINTENANCE BASE**

**Mr. E. B. Osler (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Transport a question. On the third of February when answering a question he stated Air Canada was considering further developments at Dorval in addition to the \$21,200,000 expenditure referred to. Has the government authorized since then an additional project involving on expenditure of somewhere around \$54 million for shops, hangar bases and other matters?

**Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport):** I have to take this question as notice, Mr. Speaker, and get the airline to prepare a full statement for my hon. friend which will give him all facts in respect of their plans concerning the construction of maintenance bases.

**Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (St. Boniface):** In view of the fact the minister will be looking into the question asked by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre, will the minister ask Air Canada whether included in this \$54 million is \$21,500,000 for new overhaul facilities at Dorval?