

I hope you can encourage the rectification of the wrongs to all the families of the deceased men and the passage of stronger measures controlling the safety of the people travelling on charter flights.

This prompted me to continue to ask questions about the inquiry which I hoped would be getting under way. Some time later I received a telephone call from a caller who did not leave his name. He suggested seriously that attempts were being made to obstruct the inquiry. I put another question to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) in this regard. He admitted, and subsequent newspaper reports suggested, that there had indeed been a real attempt to obstruct the proceedings of the inquiry.

Eventually, of course, we heard that the inquest had been suspended because it had proved impossible to require the attendance of some of the people who could testify in connection with the accident. I continued to ask when the inquiry would be resumed. The latest of these questions was replied to on June 27 by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) who said:

Mr. Speaker, I do not have anything further to add at this point in time.

Surely the bitterness of the families involved must be growing. The question was raised as a motion under Standing Order 43, a day or so ago in this House. I learned that no death certificates had been issued as yet in connection with the fatalities arising from this accident. So I repeat my question tonight in the hope a clearer answer will be given.

I am not talking now about the departmental inquiry which will, of course, go into the causes of the accident in terms of the aircraft but will not, I am sure, deal with all the factors of safety involved here, the inspection of all these flights into the north, and so on. I ask whether there will be a resumption of the inquest, and whether there will be a change of venue which will allow the facts to be brought forward and satisfy those who have waited so long for this particular accident, one of the most serious in Canada's aviation history, to be investigated properly.

● (2220)

**Mr. Charles Turner (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker,

#### *Adjournment Debate*

the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lang) has looked into the question of the delays which appear to have occurred in relation to the conduct of the coroner's inquest at Frobisher Bay, which opened last April. As members may be aware, it appears that one Barry Morris, a pilot employed by Panarctic, has sought an application for a writ of certiorari to quash a bench warrant issued against him by the coroner and, pending the disposition of this action in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories, the inquest proceedings cannot continue since one of the orders being sought in the application to the Supreme Court is for an adjournment of the inquest until such time as the Supreme Court has determined the application by Mr. Morris. I am given to understand that the certiorari proceedings will not be heard until September, and given the fact that this matter is before the court it would not be appropriate to make any comments on the issue of delay or any other matters surrounding the proceedings.

On the question of establishing a federal inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the air crash of the Panarctic plane at Frobisher Bay, I would think it premature to embark on any such course of action until such time as it is apparent that the existing coroner's inquiry cannot adequately perform its functions. In addition, it is my understanding that an inquiry has been conducted into this crash by the Ministry of Transport under provisions of the Aeronautics Act. I am given to understand that the report of this inquiry should be completed by fall. Again, I feel it would be premature to consider other possible courses of inquiry into the causes of the crash until the report of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) is available.

In conclusion I would note that the Attorney General, through Crown counsel in Yellowknife, has done his utmost to assist the coroner in the conduct of the inquest. The Attorney General will continue to offer his full cooperation and assistance to the coroner in seeking to bring before the inquest those persons who may have information relevant to the subject matter of the inquest.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.25 p.m.