

Mr. Lamontagne: It is phasing out because for some time we had double mailboxes: one was for regional mail and the other was for local mail. Now that some of our plants have been automated, we do not need the double mailboxes. Being automated, the selection is done very rapidly at the plant. In localities where the mail is hand-sorted, there are still two boxes. There is nothing funny about phasing out a service which we do not require any more because of automation.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the program is not cancelled: it is just like the government, dying on its feet.

An hon. Member: Right on.

Mr. Broadbent: The minister said that in some parts of the country, apparently, it is still being continued. Considering that the inventor of the automated postal system—which I understand was responsible for the complications—very recently admitted publicly that the entire system has not worked, has caused delays in the delivery of mail and has created labour problems of immense proportions, why does the government not recognize reality and cancel all the mechanical changes which have been a misapplication of technological change on a grand scale?

Mr. Lamontagne: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member should get his information straight concerning the inventor. He means Mr. Porter. I know very well what was written in the newspapers. He wrote a letter to me, which I can table if the hon. member wishes, excusing himself: he said that he was misquoted, he overreacted, and that he was involved in the Post Office 25 years ago. He excused himself for saying some things that were not completely true.

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[Translation]

BILINGUALISM

USE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE IN TRAINING COURSES FOR QUEBEC AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Since the Transport Canada training institute at Cornwall has decided to give courses and exams only in English, which is most unfair for the 16 Quebec student controllers in training at the institute, and since that will certainly not help improve the Canadian linguistic situation, I ask the Minister of Transport whether or not he is aware of that state of affairs and what he intends to do to have things change.

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, on the general question of examinations, of course, it is obvious that air traffic controllers will have to work in English as well as French in those areas where working in both languages is involved. However, the more serious question was referred to

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by the hon. member in preliminary remarks on his motion under Standing Order 43.

Simply, I should like to say that I have seen indications, through the press, of certain suggestions of bias or unfairness. Obviously, that cannot be treated lightly or disregarded. But on the other hand, it would be unfair to all kinds of people to assume there was truth in the allegations until there had been a chance to investigate and to obtain the facts. That investigation is now ongoing. As soon as I have any information, I will be glad to tell the hon. member.

[Translation]

INQUIRY AS TO MEASURES MINISTER WILL TAKE TO CORRECT SITUATION

Mr. Léonel Beaudoin (Richmond): Mr. Speaker, the minister has just told us the courses should be bilingual. Can he then tell us first of all whether he will see to it that this matter is taken care of for, to my mind, it is most discriminatory against French Canadians and secondly, whether he will ask that courses and exams are bilingual at the air controller institute?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I think the question about examinations may depend somewhat on the subject, the entire nature of the course and the program. I will also attempt to obtain more detail for the hon. member on that matter.

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LOTO CANADA

PURCHASING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOTO SELECT PROGRAM

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Fitness and Amateur Sport: it relates to the government's ill-fated Loto Select program.

Three times yesterday my leader asked the minister if she would tell the House what involvement, if any, other departments or agencies of government had in negotiating for or arranging the purchasing for the government's Loto Select program, and three times he received no answer. I wonder whether today the minister will tell the House what involvement, if any, other departments or agencies of the government had in this particular program.

Hon. Iona Campagnolo (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)): Mr. Speaker, that was not the question asked by the hon. Leader of the Opposition yesterday. I think the hon. Leader of the Opposition was questioning the functions of Crown corporations. In answering the question of the hon. member for Peel-Grey-Dufferin, or whatever it is—

Miss MacDonald: It is in Ontario.