

Oral Questions

but it was important to demonstrate the firmness with which we would respond to what we felt were unfair and unnecessary actions by the U.S. Government.

Mrs. Finestone: Mr. Speaker, it stretches the imagination to find a link between that tariff and the tariff on books.

● (1450)

REQUEST THAT TARIFF BE RESCINDED

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, with the evidence mounting that it is not the Americans who are being punished but Canadian book readers, with book prices escalating and book sales falling, and with Canadian book publishers losing millions of dollars, will the Government come to its senses and act now to rescind that unintelligent, regressive tax on reading?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I have indicated on this and many other occasions in the House that we are sensitive to the impact that this has had on the book publishing industry.

Mr. Riis: What are you doing about it?

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): I have met with representatives of the industry, as has my colleague, the Minister of Communications. It is very important. I am sure that the Hon. Member or her colleagues would be hammering us for not taking action against the United States Government on the shakes and shingles issue if we had not done this. We know that it has had an impact in Washington and that the U.S. Government is very concerned about further actions. That is why we took the action we did.

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[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

INQUIRY WHETHER DECISION ON DORVAL AND MIRABEL AIRPORTS IS FINAL

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): For the Minister of State (Transport), Mr. Speaker, another question concerning Dorval and Mirabel as well as the meetings and briefings I had in Montreal yesterday. Is the Minister aware that a consensus has developed in the Greater Montreal region in favour of concentrating air passenger services in Dorval and seeking alternative vocations for Mirabel airport, a position which is in total contradiction with the federal Government decision? Can he tell us whether the decision to maintain both Dorval and Mirabel airports is final? Or is the Government still prepared to entertain the views of municipalities and associations representing Greater Montreal residents?

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Transport)): To begin with, Mr. Speaker, the Mirabel-Dorval issue was the

subject of two-year consultations, and the one thing I am aware of is that 1,000 jobs will be saved, not to mention 1,000 more which will probably be created. As a result of this sound Government decision, both airports will be improved and Greater Montreal residents can only be better off.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister aware of the fact that, and I quote the President of the Chamber of Commerce:

Montreal business leaders totally disagree with the federal Government decision—

They would know something about jobs.

Does the Minister ignore the consultations with and reject the opinions expressed by the City of Montreal, the Montreal Urban Community, the Montreal Board of Trade, the Chamber of Commerce, Air Canada, the Association of Machinists, and 17 other organizations? Does he reject all these opinions? Is this the kind of consultations he had with the people of Montreal?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Minister has the floor.

Hon. André Bissonnette (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, perhaps the socialist Member forgot something about the briefing he was given: to my mind, Mirabel and the residents of the Laurentians are part of the Greater Montreal region. This significant correction should be kept in mind, and I think that the Chamber of Commerce will become ever more aware of the economic impact of the Laurentians on the Greater Montreal region.

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[English]

CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD

HIGH QUALITY SPRING WHEAT—REQUEST FOR FINAL PAYMENT FOR GROWERS

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board. It concerns the final payment for No. 1 and No. 2 wheat in the past crop year. Is the Minister prepared to take the necessary action today to ensure that the producers of No. 1 and No. 2 Red Spring wheat will get their full final payment to which they are entitled for this past crop year, and for which the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool and other responsible farm organizations have been asking?

Hon. Charles Mayer (Minister of State (Canadian Wheat Board)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member will know that the formal closing of the Wheat Pools are just taking place now and that the final calculations are not complete. We also know that the Canadian Wheat Board has said that if there is to be a payment it does not expect it to be a very large payment for