October 16, 1975

[English]

AIRPORTS

PICKERING—RETURN OF EXPROPRIATED LAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, now that the Pickering airport project is back in the black box I should like to ask the Minister of Transport whether any policy is being established regarding the use of agricultural land and, if so, when will that policy be forthcoming to indicate the kind of protection the federal government intends to give in respect of the utilization of agricultural lands?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, as soon as we had heard that the province of Ontario was backing away from its previous participation in the airport project we indicated that for the present time the land we had acquired for airport purposes would be available for leasing back to the individuals to be put to use as soon as possible, and that is underway.

* * *

AGRICULTURE

DATE OF AVAILABILITY OF SOIL CLASSIFICATION MAPS

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I would direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Agriculture. When will the soil classification maps for Canada which were promised to soil scientists four years ago, be available, having regard to the fact that no sensible soil utilization plans can be developed until Canada has these maps available to soil scientists in the country.

• (1450)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, it is not a matter of any promises having been made four years ago. I will certainly check on the position that this project holds and let the hon. member know.

COMPATIBILITY OF CONTROLS ON MARKETING BOARDS AND EXEMPTING FARM PRICES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and it relates to the same subject matter as the question put to him by the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre. My question is simply this: is it the minister's position that the principle of exempting prices at the farm gate from price controls is compatible with the principle of subjecting farm marketing board prices to such controls? In other words, is it the minister's opinion that exempting prices at the farm gate is compatible with the imposition of controls on the marketing boards? Can the two work together?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): I want to say first and foremost that I do not use the term "farm gate". I do not think it is practical because farm prices are much farther afield than that. I do say that what the marketing boards are doing is compatible with the policy under the anti-inflation program which we are trying to adopt at present.

Oral Questions

PROPOSED CAMP HILL COMPLEX AT HALIFAX—DATE OF TENDER CALL

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Is it still the intention of the government to proceed with the much needed building of Camp Hill veterans complex in Halifax this fall and, if so, approximately when will the tenders be called?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the question asked by the hon. member has been discussed by the provincial government of Nova Scotia and we are awaiting their views on this very important subject.

Mr. McCleave: Ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

* * *

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

REQUEST FOR ACTION TO PREVENT SHORTAGE OF HOME CANNING SUPPLIES

Mr. Howard Johnston (Okanagan-Kootenay): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. In the light of the minister's strong anti-inflation speech on Tuesday, will he undertake now to designate a specific section of his department to monitor the supply and delivery of home canning supplies for next year to prevent a recurrence in 1976 of the shortages that have developed in the last three years which have prevented many Canadians from fighting inflation as effectively as they wish to do?

[Translation]

Hon. André Ouellet (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, representatives of the companies concerned have met with officials of my department and that of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The meetings have been fruitful and I believe that not only has one part of the problem been solved this year but measures are taken to avoid any future repetition of last year's and this year's experience.

[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF LIVERPOOL TO YARMOUTH SERVICE—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Transport, but first I would like to congratulate him on his appointment to his new portfolio. The Canadian National Railways have requested permission from the Canadian Transport Commission to discontinue rail service between Liverpool, Nova Scotia and Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. In light of the fact that this is the only CNR connecting link between Halifax and Yarmouth which services our export trade from the South Shore with the New England states and