

Oral Questions

an economic scheme which would affect mostly Quebec and I would like to assure the hon. member that the present government knows what projects ought to be continued. But the right hon. Prime Minister agreed—and I think this is true to his policy—to consult with the provinces before trying to reconcile the objectives of both sides.

● (1500)

QUEBEC—INQUIRY WHETHER SUBSIDIES WILL INCREASE

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister if the government really intends to spend more money in Quebec than was previously planned. Furthermore, is the \$85 million in addition to what was normally going to be spent in Quebec, or is it just a transfer which in fact will add nothing to what was going to be spent in Quebec anyway? I ask this question, Mr. Speaker, because rumour has it that the federal government is going to spend more in Quebec than was previously planned, which I think must be inaccurate. I would like the minister to clarify that matter.

Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the hon. member got that information. What I know is that we are prepared to listen to the provinces, including Quebec, and to discuss with the Quebec government priorities in that province which would be in line with national objectives. As for saying whether the amounts will be more or less important than had been planned, I will let the minister responsible answer that question. The hon. member should know that we have already shown great generosity in the GM case, because while the former government had promised \$50 million, we raised that offer to \$80 million.

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TRANSPORT

GOVERNMENT PRIORITY TO IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICE
BETWEEN MONTREAL AND MIRABEL

Mr. Marcel Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, in view of the urgent need to improve ground transportation between Mirabel and downtown Montreal via Laval, and to help make international airport services at Mirabel profitable, is it the minister's intention when he meets with the Quebec government to consider that request as a priority, as something that is urgently needed and that would also provide jobs during the construction period and for future generations?

Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Supply and Services): Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt we consider that project as very important, and in the views of some Liberals it is more important than the Place Guy Favreau project. At any rate, I would repeat for the benefit of the member that we want to

[Mr. La Salle.]

hear the recommendations and submissions of the Quebec government, after which we will decide.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have received three notices of privilege, one from the hon. member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly), one from the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) and a third one just now from the hon. member for Algoma (Mr. Foster). I presume the question of privilege of the hon. member for Algoma arises out of today's question period. Therefore I think I should take it into account now, and I will do the other two in the order I have just indicated.

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PRIVILEGE

MR. FOSTER—LOST TRADE OPPORTUNITIES—REQUEST FOR
DEPARTMENTAL STUDIES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, my question of privilege arises out of the question which I directed to the Minister of State for International Trade (Mr. Wilson) this afternoon. I put a question to him concerning the trade opportunities which were lost due to the Israeli embassy question. In his response he indicated that he was not prepared to make available to members of this House copies of the studies which had been done by his department, yet he indicated that he was making these studies available to the companies which were involved.

It would seem to me that on this day, when we will be debating freedom of information legislation in the House, the hon. minister would want to reconsider his position and make these studies available to members. Surely freedom of information legislation will give members a new privilege, in that they will have access to greater numbers of government documents on which to base their opinions and judge government programs. I am not asking for the individual documentation or the correspondence with individual companies. I am asking for the over-all studies which have been made available to companies, yet the minister has indicated that he is unwilling to make them available to members of the House.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of State for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of which studies the hon. member is referring to that have been made available to individual companies. What I said in answer to his question was that the studies which have been done are studies discussing the particular statements or comments made to us in relation to their own particular business in the Middle East. That is the information which I said that I could not make available to the House because it is strictly confidential.

MR. SKELLY—RADIO OPERATORS' DISPUTE—REQUEST THAT
MINISTER WITHDRAW REMARKS

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I rise on an important question of privilege. I refer to an answer given yesterday in the House by the hon. Minister of Trans-