

House that all commissioners, both full time and part time, appointed to that body did not hold political office at the time of appointment or during appointment?

[Translation]

Mr. Pelletier (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, I think such control devolves upon the minister who makes recommendations to the cabinet, which makes the appointments. I am therefore responsible for this control in the case of the CRTC.

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[English]

INCOME TAX

DEDUCTION FROM TAXABLE INCOME OF EXPENDITURES INCURRED TO REPAIR DAMAGE TO SHORELINE PROPERTIES

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance. Has the minister under active consideration a proposal to allow expenditures undertaken to protect shoreline property from erosion damage as an authorized deduction from taxable income?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly take that representation very seriously.

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AIR TRANSPORT

CUSTOMS PRECLEARANCE—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Ron Atkey (St. Paul's): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Is the minister in a position to indicate whether he will accede to Air Canada's request to eliminate customs pre-clearance for all airlines on April 29 at Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver? If the minister has not yet made a decision, is he taking into account the substantial inconvenience and expense that will be caused to the travelling public and to Canadian business if this request is approved?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, this is a matter we are now discussing. The president of Air Canada is now on his way to Montreal. I hope that in a few days I can give a more precise answer to the House.

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AIR CANADA

RESTRUCTURING OF FINANCIAL DIVISION—REQUEST FOR DELAY IN DECISION WHILE EMPLOYEES NEGOTIATING

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): I have a supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I have given the minister notice of my question. As Air Canada has just completed a study which could result in the restructuring of the company's financial division, while at the same time the Canada Airline Employees Association is involved in

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negotiations, will the minister assure the House that no restructuring will take place while these negotiations are in progress?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for giving me notice of his question. However, I cannot see very well the relationship between the two matters he has mentioned. I will make sure that this difficulty does not exist, because employee negotiations and the restructuring of finances are two different matters.

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[Translation]

HEALTH

INDEMNIFICATION OF THALIDOMIDE VICTIMS—ALLEGED STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

Mr. Gilles Caouette (Charlevoix): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of National Health and Welfare.

On March 12, the minister stated that certain cases of thalidomide victims in Quebec had been settled by the payment of \$3,600 in compensation, and that this compensation did not seem high enough.

On April 4, the minister made a statement on cases yet to be settled, but he made no mention of those where the settlement seems clearly too low and discriminatory.

Can he tell us today whether he has ordered an inquiry into the cases that were settled unfairly?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I never made the first statement for the good reason that I know nothing about the matter.

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[English]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

CAMP VERNON—ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF TWO CHILDREN FROM EXPLOSIVE DEVICE—ACTION TO PREVENT SIMILAR DISASTER

Mr. G. H. Whittaker (Okanagan Boundary): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence. In view of the fact that concern has been expressed by residents of Vernon, British Columbia, that proper precautions have not been taken to seal off the Camp Vernon training range to prevent further dangerous accidents similar to the one that killed two boys the other day, will the minister have this matter further investigated and make sure that every precaution is taken to provide maximum safety in the future?

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. I have told the House that the RCMP are investigating, and we are co-operating fully.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe.