

*Oral Questions*ALLEGATION FOOD AID NOT REACHING THOSE IN NEED—  
REQUEST FOR REPORT

**Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton-Strathcona):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask a supplementary question? I am only one man and only so much information can be made available to me. I need the kind of support which the government has available for the formation of its own policies. In an effort to gather material for constructive suggestions, I asked the Prime Minister on May 8 if he was aware that 80 per cent of Canada's food aid is being sold to local peoples. The Prime Minister said he was not aware and undertook to find out if there was misinterpretation and misrepresentation in Canada's food aid. Could the Prime Minister now report to me on this subject?

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I have been made aware of the hon. member's question. It has been the practice, I think since about 1951, for governments which receive Canadian food aid to establish counterpart funds which are devoted to economic development purposes. Normally, the recipient countries of food aid distribute that food through their own distribution system to people most in need. In some cases they establish the price at cost or somewhat above cost in order to protect their own agricultural and distribution systems. It should be added, however, that in the case of multilateral assistance, and emergency assistance, no counterpart funds are established. But this practice, as I have discovered, has been systematically followed since the Colombo plan of 1951, and certainly is nothing new. It is intended, really, to protect the marketing and agricultural systems in the recipient country.

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## NATIONAL DEFENCE

SUGGESTED PURCHASE OF DE HAVILLAND DASH SEVEN  
AIRCRAFT

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of National Defence. Is the minister actively considering purchasing the new de Havilland DASH 7 aircraft for sovereignty control over our oceans, and will he announce his intention to the House in the next few weeks?

**Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, the DASH 7 is one aircraft which we are considering, but it is only one of several.

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## AIR CANADA

ALLEGED SUBSIDIZATION OF EASTERN ROUTES BY THE  
WEST—REQUEST FOR DELAY IN RATE INCREASES UNTIL RATE  
STRUCTURE CHANGED

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Last Wednesday I asked the minister a question about the cross-subsidization of routes, inasmuch as the prairie routes are subsidizing the Air Canada Toronto-Ottawa-

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Montreal route. I think the minister misunderstood my question. May I now ask whether he is prepared to intercede with Air Canada, with a view to seeing whether the application for increased rates can be forestalled or postponed until this discrepancy in the rate structure can be solved.

**Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the answer is no.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Mr. Speaker, may I direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Justice as the minister representing western interests?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Will the minister not intervene, on behalf of western Canada, in this grossly inequitable situation?

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I have noted the hon. member's representation.

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## FISHERIES

LOBSTER—REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF DECISION OF  
FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE ON GEAR LOSSES AND  
POSSIBLE CHANGE IN FISHING SEASON

**Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of State responsible for fisheries. What action has he taken to investigate the questionable decision of a federal-provincial committee concerning the declaration of certain zones and compensation for lobster gear losses last year? Also, in view of the time of year, will he advise the House if he has directed his officials to investigate doubts concerning the lobster season? If changes are to be made, is he aware of consensus on the part of fishermen?

**Hon. Romeo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)):** Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to review a decision made by a federal-provincial committee over one year ago. I am willing to see if we can make improvements in this matter, but I really must tell the hon. member that the decisions were made in the light of facts then known, and only after full consultation with the provincial government which was very much involved in this process. As I have indicated, I will try to be as flexible as I can, but I would not want to give those who have been refused false hope.

As to the matter of the lobster season, we are looking at the matter again. I had not received official requests from fishermen's organizations up to a couple of days ago, but I will look in the files again. We are always willing to change the regulations which we can change at the stroke of a pen to accommodate fishermen. The problem is to obtain consensus among all fishermen of the district.