

for External Affairs, who has pointed out that our principal purpose in making protests like this is to be helpful to Canadians and to others whose lives might otherwise be in jeopardy. I am sure that the hon. member, who has experience of these matters, would not want to say anything that would harm Canadians or anybody else.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister assure the House and the country that all Canadian personnel in the disaster areas will be evacuated before they become personally endangered?

Mr. Sharp: Mr. Speaker, evacuation plans are being updated daily. However, so far it has been decided that it is not necessary to evacuate Canadians from Saigon. They are safe at the moment, but plans are ready to evacuate them if the situation gets to that point.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

PROPOSAL RETIRED MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND RCMP ENTITLED TO COUNT SERVICE FOR LEAVE PURPOSES— GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the President of the Treasury Board. In view of the statement of the Minister of National Defence on October 24, 1974 that the President of the Treasury Board was giving serious consideration to the proposition that retired members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police should be entitled to count their period of service for leave purposes when they enter the public service of Canada, would the minister please inform the House whether this serious consideration is continuing and, if so, would he advise the House and the country when there might be an announcement made with respect to a change of policy?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, I am not in a position to tell the hon. member whether or when we will have an announcement on that matter. While I have the floor, Mr. Speaker, may I answer a question from the member for Kingston and the Islands, who asked me yesterday when a contract was given by Statistics Canada. The contract was approved by Treasury Board on January 30, 1975.

[English]

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. I wonder whether the minister could tell me when he will be in a position to answer the question that I first asked?

[Translation]

Mr. Chrétien: Soon, Mr. Speaker.

Oral Questions

INDIAN AFFAIRS

OFFER OF SETTLEMENT OF NATIVE LAND CLAIMS IN CONNECTION WITH JAMES BAY PROJECT—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to put a question to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Could the minister tell us if the Indians and Innuits of James Bay in Quebec have really accepted the latest offers of the Bourassa government concerning compensation for the hydro-electric project in that area and, if not, if his department will continue to give them financial help to assert their rights and privileges?

[English]

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, all that has been achieved in Quebec is the signing of an agreement in principle in November of last year. We left a period of a year, to November of this year, for ongoing negotiations and discussions to be held to try to iron out the details, so that the final agreement pertaining to James Bay would not be signed, we expect, until November.

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AIRPORTS

VANCOUVER AND TORONTO—ALLEGED FAILURE OF X-RAY MACHINES TO DETECT KNIVES IN BAGGAGE—REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that security procedures for inspecting passengers and hand baggage at international airports were implemented for the safety of passengers, and in view of the enormous cost and considerable inconvenience to passengers, would the minister call for an immediate investigation into the failure during the past 24 hours of x-ray machines at Vancouver and Toronto international airports to detect the presence in hand baggage of four razor sharp kitchen knives, one of which was over 14 inches in length?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): I will consider that, Mr. Speaker.

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AGRICULTURE

CANADIAN EGG MARKETING AGENCY—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT FROM MINISTER—ADEQUACY OF FEDERAL AUTHORITY

Mr. Bill Jarvis (Perth-Wilmot): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and arises out of the meetings held last week with his provincial counterparts. I wonder whether the minister would make a statement on motions regarding the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency and, if so, will the statement be made this week?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I see no real urgency about making a statement.