

*Oral Questions*

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. We have just witnessed the spectacle of a Minister of Transport, a member of this Government for the last four years, stand and tell the House that we finally began to deal with the problem at Pearson last Friday.

**An Hon. Member:** Question.

**Mr. Tobin:** Pearson is inefficient, it is frustrating for passengers, and Pearson International Airport is dangerous.

Beyond these bland assurances, what measures are being taken by the Government to hire and train additional air traffic controllers and to make the system safe so that Canadians travelling during this holiday period and in the months ahead know that Canadian airways are safe?

**Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Transport)):** Mr. Speaker, as I answered earlier questions in the House today, action has been taken to ensure that traffic flows safely and more effectively through the airport at Toronto. Part of the problem that we have with some of the shortages go back to the Auditor General's Report under the former Government which said that we had—

**Ms. Copps:** You have had four years.

**Mrs. Martin:** Four years of deregulation. Regulatory reform has brought forth far more traffic at Pearson International Airport. Traffic has escalated and we are working to handle it. We will be bringing more air traffic controllers on-stream next year to help. We are handling the traffic that will be going through over the holiday season. Safety has always been number one and will continue to be number one at Pearson International.

## GOVERNMENT MEASURES

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's Report in 1984, as the Minister started to say but thought better of, said there were insufficient air traffic controllers in Canada. The Standing Committee on Transport of the House of Commons said at the time of the introduction of deregulation, four years ago, first that we must have more air traffic controllers. The Government in 1984 actually laid off air traffic controllers.

The current situation is dangerous. It is not just frustrating. It is dangerous. I want to ask the Minister of Transport to quit beating around the bush and tell

Canadians and Members of this House what concrete measures the Government has taken concerning our air transportation system after the Government has botched it through four years of inaction.

**Hon. Shirley Martin (Minister of State (Transport)):** Mr. Speaker, action has been taken to make sure that traffic flows safely through Pearson over the Christmas holiday period so that travellers can get home for the holidays.

Meetings will be held in January in Toronto with all the interested parties. As far as the medium and long-term plans for the airport are concerned, number one is safety and will continue to be for this Government as far as air traffic flow is concerned.

\* \* \*

## FISHERIES

## EEC NORTH ATLANTIC FISHING QUOTAS

**Mr. George Baker (Gander—Grand Falls):** Mr. Speaker, the EEC yesterday unilaterally set its own 1989 fishing quotas off the East Coast of Canada 12 times higher than those allowed by the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization. A spokesman for the Government claimed this morning, "There is not enough fish in the entire north Atlantic to satisfy that EEC quota".

Does the Government realize that 84,000 tonnes of the 160,000 tonnes of cod in that unilateral declaration will be from the nose of the Grand Banks where, Mr. Speaker, as you know, a moratorium exists on fishing activity to help rebuild the stocks so that they can come ashore and employ our people in our fish plants?

What does the Government intend to do about this further destruction of our fishing resource by foreign nations?

• (1450)

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, we are delighted to know that the Hon. Member can distinguish the nose from the tail of the Grand Banks.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Siddon:** The Hon. Member raises a very serious issue. It is one that Ministers, provincially and federally, have been wrestling with for the last two years, and which has led to partial results.