

Oral Questions

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER TABLE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO AGREEMENT AND ANALYSES

Mr. John Parry (Kenora—Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the same Minister.

Could the Minister table in the House all relevant documents, not just the agreement, but also the analytical reports showing that this agreement respects the polluter pay principle whereby pollution clean-up costs should not be paid with Government subsidies?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism) and Minister of State (Indian Affairs and Northern Development)): Mr. Speaker, I find it strange that the New Democratic Party should criticize the Government for trying . . .

An Hon. Member: Let him answer, we do not need dummies!

Mr. Valcourt: Mr. Speaker, I find it strange that members of the NDP, Canada's uncompromising party, should object to the Government taking steps to protect Quebec's environment. It is my first comment.

As to the disclosure of the terms of the contract, I must say this is a contract between the Government and a private corporation. We know what the Socialists think of private enterprise, but as a rule there is no disclosure of the terms of such a contract because this could affect the competitiveness of the company.

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[English]

DISASTERS

INVESTIGATION OF GANDER AIR CRASH

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and is concerning the Gander air disaster. Several members of the Canadian Aviation Safety Board have signed a report rejecting the air crash investigators' theory that icing was the cause of the crash that took the lives of 256 people in Gander, Newfoundland.

In view of the fact that half of the Board members are complaining that they were restricted in their review of the investigators' finding, coupled with the fact that eye witness reports have been rejected as irrelevant, will the Minister now assume his responsibilities on behalf of the Government?

Will he make available to the Canadian Aviation Safety Board all the information that the investigators have on hand? Will he personally ensure that all members of the Board are provided with all of the information?

Hon. Gerry St. Germain (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows, the Canadian Aviation Safety Board is an autonomous body set up by this Parliament in 1983. He may recall that it was set up with unanimous agreement.

The investigation is ongoing. At the present time a draft report of this accident has been issued to interested parties which are responding. We are awaiting a final report. Until such time, I think it would be premature to judge the final outcome of this investigation.

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, as interesting as that may be, that is not the question that I asked.

[Translation]

REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): I would like to ask the Minister of State (Small Businesses) a straight forward question: Why did the Canadian Aviation Safety Board and its members not get access to all information? We have here, Mr. Speaker, a foot of information. And some is missing! Why was this information not given to members of the Bureau to make sure that everybody would know all about that terrible accident? Why not make all information readily available? Is the government hiding something?

[English]

Hon. Gerry St. Germain (Minister of State (Transport)): Mr. Speaker, we have said, and will repeat again, that the results of this entire investigation will be made public. I repeat that the Minister will be receiving a report from the Canadian Aviation Safety Board and the Minister will have 90 days to respond. This investigation will be completed with the well-being and safety of all air transportation in Canada in mind.

Mr. Boudria: There is interference.

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● (1500)

WESTERN DIVERSIFICATION FUND

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO MANITOBA

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister responsible for the Western Diversification Fund, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. Last week the Conservative Premier of Manitoba confirmed what we had claimed weeks ago, that in fact Manitoba received virtually none of the funding from that fund while tens of millions of dollars have gone to British Columbia and Saskatchewan. When will the Government get its act together to see that Manitoba gets its fair share of the funds?