

Oral Questions

However, to the extent that my officials are invited to take part in such studies, I shall see to it that they are at the disposal of the departments concerned as well as of the provinces, to try and develop techniques to solve this problem.

[English]

Mr. Yewchuk: In view of the fact that care of the health of Canadians is a responsibility which falls under the minister's jurisdiction, would he consider becoming involved in the sponsoring of industrial health and safety regulations immediately, and would he consider the placing of full-time federal inspectors in these areas to try to resolve the problem?

[Translation]

Mr. Lalonde: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member no doubt knows that industrial security matters fall in most cases under provincial jurisdiction. However, in the environmental field, some responsibilities were conferred to the federal government and come right now under the Department of the Environment. Again, I can only repeat the answer I gave to the previous question.

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ENERGY**NATURAL GAS—CONSULTATION WITH QUEBEC ON CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINE FROM THE NORTH**

Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

In view of the gas discoveries on Melville and Christian Islands, the minister mentioned a few minutes ago the possible development of a pipeline system towards the east. Can he say whether he has consulted the Quebec authorities and whether they are interested in such a project on the east side of James Bay and Hudson Bay?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, my officials have discussed energy matters with Quebec officials, but there was no specific discussion on those particular matters. A project for such a pipeline must be submitted to the National Energy Board which must make a decision before the Canadian government can make its own decision.

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[English]

FINANCE**COST OF CORPORATE TAX CONCESSIONS—INQUIRY AS TO STUDY OF IMPACT OF SIMILAR AMOUNT PUT INTO HOUSING**

Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo-Cambridge): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister and it relates to the report to parliament on corporate tax measures. According to the conclusions reached in the report, 73,000 jobs were created by an expenditure of \$1.8 billion in tax concessions made to the corporate taxpayers of Canada. Has the government undertaken any comparable cost benefit analysis to determine the impact of a similar

[Mr. Lalonde.]

infusion or stimulus of benefits, for instance, into the housing industry and how many jobs that would create?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): I do not think the government has made a specific study of that particular comparison, but when decisions are made in this field, these kinds of comparisons are made in a general way and it is very difficult to evaluate them in statistical terms. We are stimulating the housing industry and I hope that we will be able to achieve our objectives. There are other lines of economic activity that should also be stimulated because if you are looking at the long term as well as the short term, you have to think in terms of jobs, not for the immediate future only but also in terms of the general economic health of the country. If we can make progress without inflation, we will have a better chance of maintaining full employment than if we stimulated the economy too abruptly or along particular lines to the detriment of the future.

Mr. Saltzman: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for Rocky Mountain.

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GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION**ALLEGED USE OF GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT BY MINISTERS TO ATTEND POLITICAL EVENTS—INQUIRY AS TO GUIDELINES**

Mr. Joe Clark (Rocky Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Acting Prime Minister and it relates to the activities of the Minister of Justice who is responsible for the campaign of Tony Merchant. I should like to ask whether the Liberal party of Saskatchewan is being billed for those parts of the frequent flights of the Minister of Justice to Saskatchewan which are made for partisan purposes, including the diversion to Regina of a government plane to provide entertainment for a provincial campaign party for the minister's brother-in-law, and has the government established and will it publish any guidelines which stop the subsidy from the public purse of Liberal party activities?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of these allegations. I have not heard of them before. In fact, I doubt their accuracy.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Sharp: However, I would point out that cabinet ministers, as does the Leader of the Opposition, have passes on Air Canada.

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain): Will the Acting Prime Minister look into what he considers to be ill-founded allegations, and will he tell the House whether there are any guidelines respecting repayment by the Liberal party to the government of Canada—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Clark (Rocky Mountain):—for the use of government aircraft, as is anticipated now in the election