

thinks he can make this announcement, or is this to be another one of those things that is to be ducked?

Mr. Richardson: No, Mr. Speaker, the matter is under study but I do not want to set a date for an announcement at this time.

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AIR TRANSPORT

POSSIBLE DATE WHEN COMMISSION ON BILINGUAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL WILL COMPLETE WORK

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport and is basically supplementary to those questions asked earlier by the hon. member for Crowfoot. My question is in connection with the timing of the commission which is on everybody's mind today. Can the minister indicate when the three man commission will start its work or deliberations, and will he inform the House whether the government has set a deadline on when the commission is to report back, or is the work of this commission to in fact be open-ended?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the commission will begin its work in terms of assembling its advisers and staff as soon as it can get together. The procedure to be followed is that the expert staff of the commission will be expected to work alongside the other experts from the department and the various associations through the development of the procedures in the simulation exercise which at all times was a contemplated requirement to develop a satisfaction about safety. The work will go forward to a point where my own safety advisors are satisfied with the procedures which have been developed and at that point in time they will say so and, according to the terms of reference, the commission must report within 90 days of that exact moment. That report will then be laid before Parliament.

● (1440)

STATUS OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL IN QUEBEC DURING COMMISSION INVESTIGATION

Mr. Jack Murta (Lisgar): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister whether he could inform the House if there will be any change, I suppose of status for lack of a better word, of air traffic control in the province of Quebec while the commission is investigating this matter or will we have a situation in which nothing will move ahead so far as the two major airports are concerned until after a recommendation has been made by the three-man commission.

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, notwithstanding the most recent attitude, a good deal has been accomplished over time in respect of a general agreement. That may still be possible. In addition there is a provision in the terms of reference for interim reports by the commission so that if a specific item we found where traffic in a bilingual way should be advanced or put in place because it is clearly and fully consistent with safety, then there is the possibility of that happening on the basis of an interim report before the elaborate work of the commission has been completed.

Oral Questions

MANPOWER

FEDERAL CONTRIBUTION TO LABOUR COSTS OF REBUILDING HOUSES AT MAIN À DIEU

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Manpower. In view of the fact that Nova Scotia's provincial government has announced that it will make available \$125,000 for materials to rebuild the houses lost by fire in Main à Dieu, can the minister give a general figure on what his department will offer toward the labour costs of rebuilding the houses.

Hon. Robert K. Andras (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Well, Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in the House the other day we are making special local initiative program funds available to Main à Dieu in view of the disaster which hit that community. Program officials have visited that community. There have been meetings on the problems. I cannot say specifically the amount of money that will be decided on. We want to stay flexible. I expect to see the projects and be able to judge them in a matter of a very few days. There will be substantial funding for that. The exact amount will have to wait until we assess all the projects.

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FISHERIES

EXTENSION OF BREAKWATER AT MAIN À DIEU—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East-Richmond): Mr. Speaker, although the main thing is housing, I should like to direct this question to the Minister of Fisheries. I hope the minister will not feel I am bugging him too much on this matter. I wonder if he has made up his mind regarding our request for an extension of the breakwater in Main à Dieu, as a means of giving the small fishing community a needed lift at a very trying time?

Hon. Roméo LeBlanc (Minister of State (Fisheries)): Mr. Speaker, I well understand the words the hon. member used in the interest of his constituents. I certainly recognize his efforts. The decision as to the possibility of reorganizing our schedule of work still has to be taken because most of the money which was committed for this present fiscal year involves contracts for which tenders have already been called. But we are trying to gather enough funds to advance this project. If I succeed I will let the hon. member know.

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[Translation]

AIR TRANSPORT

SUGGESTED MEASURES TO ENSURE EFFICIENCY OF COMMISSION ON BILINGUAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Mr. Serge Joyal (Maisonneuve): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Transport.

In view of the statement made this morning by the president of the Canadian Air Line Pilots Association