

he breaks up with tradition, and inquire when the airport construction in northwest New Brunswick will be announced. Or will he have to wait for a separation threat from the republic of Madawaska to get things moving?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker. I think the hon. member has done enough already and that no further action on his part is needed. I am happy to say that we are making positive progress and we will soon have a time schedule for him.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

PENITENTIARIES

REQUEST THAT INMATES WHO TESTIFY BEFORE COMMITTEE BE PROTECTED FROM ILL TREATMENT

Mr. Jacques Lavoie (Hochelaga): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Solicitor General, to whom I was unable to give a copy of the letter in question, but I will do so as soon as I can.

Following the recent visit to Quebec penitentiaries, and in view of the fact that several inmates appearing before the committee mentioned they feared retaliation after their testimony, just before coming here I received a letter from an inmate advising me that one of the witnesses who had denounced some guards had indeed been thrown in the hole. Can the minister tell the House then whether he intends to find an early solution so as to prevent the ever increasing stress in that penitentiary before there is any row in there, and to protect the director, Mr. Goulem, who is also in a bad situation vis-à-vis these guards?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, of course I am looking forward to the report and recommendations to be submitted by the committee of which the hon. gentleman is a member.

As to the question of retaliation, I am not aware of the case the hon. member is referring to, and I am waiting for the letter with much impatience. It is obvious that I should like to tell him that no individual can be sent to solitary confinement unless he appeared before a disciplinary committee of the institution, and members of the committee are always appointed by the institution's director.

● (1450)

[English]

POLICY ON TRANSFERRING PRISONERS—ALLEGED REFUSAL OF AIR CANADA TO TRANSPORT PRISONER

Mr. Bill Clarke (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Solicitor General. On Monday of last week I asked him about policy on transferring dangerous prisoners between federal prisons in relation to delay of a certain commercial flight and the minister said he would look

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into it and get back to me. I should like to ask him again today, what is the government's policy on this important matter, and does he have the information he promised about the specific case?

Hon. Francis Fox (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I should like to answer as far as policy is concerned. Perhaps the hon. member could bring to my attention the specific case to which he is referring. In the matter of policy, I can say there has been no change in policy recently. I will go beyond that to say that our policy is to use commercial means of transportation, taking into account the security of the public, but in all cases of transfers of inmates the captain of the aircraft is consulted. On his refusal to accept inmates as passengers we use other means of transportation as available and convenient.

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ENERGY

NATURAL GAS—RATE INCREASE IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA—APPROVAL OF NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources whether he is aware of an increase in natural gas prices in northern regions of British Columbia, particularly the town of Fort Nelson, amounting to 68 per cent, which results in an increase to the average householder of \$30 per month? Would the minister indicate whether he is aware of this situation and if the National Energy Board was involved in approving of or scrutinizing this action?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the details of what the hon. member has raised. I suspect it may have to do with the B.C. government's pricing policy rather than the pricing policy at the wellhead. However, I will draw it to the attention of the National Energy Board.

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ANTI-INFLATION BOARD

POSSIBILITY OF BOARD INTERVENING IN RATE INCREASE FOR NATURAL GAS IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Mr. F. Oberle (Prince George-Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a supplementary question to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. Will he co-operate with the minister in determining what deal was made with the province of British Columbia that prevents the Anti-Inflation Board to intervene in a case where such an increase is imposed on the domestic consumer of energy?

Mr. Bob Kaplan (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I would be glad to bring that to the minister's attention and look into it with him.