

Oral Questions

request made by the Anti-Inflation Board, how does the minister justify this large expenditure?

Hon. Jack Cullen (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I suspect that when the hon. member studies the supplementary estimates he will see that the expenditures were considerably less than \$100,000. We should commend the administrator for the manner in which he is operating his office. His funding will be substantially less than \$100,000 a month.

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AIRPORTS

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW POLICY ON CAR RENTAL LOCATIONS

Mr. John Reynolds (Burnaby-Richmond-Delta): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. When will an announcement be made regarding a new policy for car rental locations at Canadian airports?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, discussions with the interested participants in the industry are going well. I plan to formulate new proposals and conclusions on the basis of those discussions but cannot give the hon. member a date.

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HEALTH

LOSS OF RESEARCH SCIENTISTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare and relates to funding for medical research. On March 6, 1976, the Stratford *Beacon Herald*, in an article headlined "Canada losing medical brain through lack of federal fund" reported the loss of medical research scientists to the United States, among whom is a researcher at the University of Toronto, Dr. Irving Fox. The physician in chief at the Toronto General Hospital and chairman of the university's department of medicine, Dr. Charles Hollenberg, was commenting on the loss of Dr. Irving Fox, an arthritis researcher, to the United States, because of lack of equipment and funding in Canada. Is the minister concerned about Dr. Hollenberg's comment, and the fact that people are leaving Canada because of the attraction of greater funds and better equipment elsewhere?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. Still, there is always a flow of researchers between Canada and the United States.

[Mr. Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek).]

[English]

AGRICULTURE

REASON FOR SURPLUS OF MILK PRODUCTS

Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture. In view of the build up of milk products in Canada, the dairy industry lending itself to supply-management, can the minister tell the House what went wrong in the decision-making process of the Canadian Dairy Commission, or is the present situation beyond the control of that federal authority?

● (1500)

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, one of the things that usually has to be considered is the excellent weather conditions, and the fact we are dealing with a biological entity called a cow. They respond to conditions. Last year they over-responded. In addition, world conditions compounded the situation with 1,600,000 tons of surplus skim milk powder. This took away some of the market from Canadian producers. It again points out the efficiency of Canadian dairy producers.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

TABLING OF LETTER FROM JUSTICE MACKAY

Hon. Jean Chrétien (President of the Treasury Board): Mr. Speaker, last week I tabled a letter I had sent to the Prime Minister; today I should like to complete the exchange of correspondence by tabling the other letter I received from Justice Kenneth Mackay.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The Standing Orders permit the tabling of documents that relate to the administrative competence of the minister. It is evident that this document is sought by the House but it is not strictly within the minister's departmental competence. I wonder, therefore, if the House gives consent so that the document might be tabled.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, in my questioning earlier today, I think I inadvertently suggested that the Minister of Public Works and the former minister of finance confirmed that they had conversations with the judge in the case. Of course, what they confirmed was conversations with their colleague, the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. I simply want the record to be clear as I was in error in my original remark.

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. During the question period the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs refused to answer questions relating to his alleged requests of one of his colleagues and one of his former colleagues to intervene on his behalf with a judge dealing with contempt of court proceedings. He claimed, as I understood it, the privilege of not answering to the high