

Oral Questions

Hon. Marcel Lessard (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am well aware that the hon. member seeks to know whether I did understand his question, namely if the money returned to the provinces through the grants made by the different departments comes from the taxes levied in these provinces. There is no direct specific relation. Naturally, the money returned to the provinces through all the federal programs is indeed a kind of proportional return of the money levied across Canada. I do not see any reason why the hon. member is opposed to this. In my view, this has always been very clear to and so perceived by all the people of all the provinces of Canada.

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[English]

AIRPORTS

REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE HAMILTON CITIZENS' COMMITTEE
CAN CONTINUE TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO MINISTER

Mr. Gus MacFarlane (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Transport. Is the minister aware that according to the terms of reference of the airport expansion citizen's committee in Hamilton, it was to report directly to him with minority and majority reports but a press release yesterday implied that it would report to a federal-provincial committee? Can the minister assure the House that the committee will be entitled to its right to report directly to him?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to give that assurance. Of course, certain studies we receive may be fitted into broader ranging studies over the whole of Ontario, but it was made clear during our discussions with the Ontario minister that we would have to be free to act on specific recommendations to avoid a buildup of problems, even while other studies were being conducted.

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THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

IMPACT OF LOCKHEED ORION PROJECT ON EMPLOYMENT IN
NOVA SCOTIA—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. Could the hon. gentleman indicate if he received any recommendations from the government of Nova Scotia with respect to the potential loss of jobs in that province arising out of the Lockheed Orion project? Could he also indicate, if he has received representations, whether he would be prepared to indicate the nature of his response, particularly in light of the serious impact of the transfer of some 400 jobs from Nova Scotia to Montreal on the very high unemployment rate in the Atlantic region?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have no recollection of having seen such representations. I shall certainly check in my office to see if some representations have arrived. I will also see if other

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

departments or other ministers have received some communication.

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POST OFFICE

POSSIBILITY GOVERNMENT OFFER TO STRIKING EMPLOYEES
SUBMITTED TO ANTI-INFLATION BOARD PRIOR TO NOVEMBER
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Mr. Otto Jelinek (High Park-Humber Valley): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Postmaster General. Referring to the final offer that forced the longest postal strike in our history, on November 19 the Prime Minister said: "We have interpreted the guidelines in a way which has permitted the Postmaster General to make an offer to the unions." Could the Postmaster General advise this House whether at any time prior to or during the strike the Anti-Inflation Board was formally consulted on the government's final monetary offer and if so, was the position as stated by the Prime Minister taken after such consultation with the board?

Hon. Bryce Mackasey (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I frankly have no intention of satisfying the hon. gentleman's curiosity. My statement is in *Hansard* for him to read and interpret.

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AGRICULTURE

IMPORTATION OF BUCKWHEAT FROM UNITED STATES—
REQUEST FOR REPORT ON DESTINATION

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, I have a short question for the Minister of Agriculture. Can the minister tell us whether, following his investigation yesterday, the two million pounds of buckwheat imported into Manitoba in October from the United States is destined for a port elsewhere in Canada?

Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, we are conducting an investigation. As I said yesterday, if any buckwheat was imported into Manitoba illegally by any elevator company, they know that it is illegal to put it in a government licensed elevator. We are checking with our legal advisers to see what action will be taken if they find there was a contravention of our laws. The investigation is not complete.

Mr. Broadbent: A supplementary question. Since it is my information that Canadian customs informed the Department of Agriculture in Manitoba that such importation did take place, can the minister make sure that all the penalties under Canadian law are brought to bear in this situation?

Mr. Whelan: Mr. Speaker, there is nothing wrong with importing buckwheat if the proper procedure is followed, that is if it is not put in a licensed elevator and the importers do not try to use the Crowsnest Pass shipping rates to ship it to an authorized port. That is what we are checking.