

DRAFTING OF REGULATIONS COVERING
INNOCENT PASSAGE THROUGH
TERRITORIAL WATERS

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): I wish to ask the Minister of Transport if he is now engaged in considering the drafting of regulations to cover innocent passage through what are Canadian territorial waters, as Canada is entitled to do, under the international conventions?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I think the question might more properly be directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs as I believe it involves—

Mr. Baldwin: We can't get anywhere with him.

GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF SECRETARY OF STATE—FILLING OF VACANT POSITIONS

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): My question is for the Secretary of State. In view of the five major appointments at the director level or higher already this year in his department, will the minister please advise whether the recent appointment of Mr. Bernard Ostry as Under-Secretary of State has finally filled all the blanks in his department?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre.

Mr. Nowlan: I think the minister was about to rise. I have a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I thought I saw a blank look on the minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): I thought it was a blank question, Mr. Speaker. The answer is no.

Mr. Nowlan: If the minister thinks it is a blank question he may not think the supplementary is so blank. He may think it more blunt. Is there any relationship between the new responsibilities of the Under-Secretary of State within the minister's department and his past part authorship of the brief to set up Information Canada?

Mr. Trudeau: That is a blunt question.

Mr. Nowlan: You look very blank.

Inquiries of the Ministry
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

SUPPLEMENTARY PENSIONS BENEFITS BILL

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the President of the Privy Council in his capacity as Government House Leader. On February 6, in response to a question of mine, the minister indicated that the supplementary pensions benefits bill would be available for first reading in the week of February 16, and that is this week. In view of the fact that no notice of that bill is yet on the Order Paper and that notice must be given today if it is to be given first reading this week, can the minister inform us if that will be done?

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council): Certain drafting problems have been encountered with regard to the bill. I am afraid there will not be a notice given this week.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister now assure us that it will be before the House next week?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I hate to create any expectations I could not meet next week.

[Translation]

AIR CANADA

OPPORTUNITY OF PRIVATE INTERESTS
TO PURCHASE SHARES

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I want to put a question to the Minister of Transport.

In view of the intention of the government to turn Air Canada into a Crown corporation entirely independent from the Canadian National Railways, can the minister tell us whether this gesture means that, in the near future, individuals or private interest groups will be able to purchase Air Canada shares and to control this corporation?

[English]

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): No, Mr. Speaker, there is no such intention.

TRANSPORT

SNOWMOBILES—PREPARATION OF SAFETY
REGULATIONS

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey): I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the tremendous increase in the sale