

Oral Questions

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton—The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister for being forthcoming on that request. I hope the list will be coming forward as soon as possible.

I would like to ask her about one of those areas, that is mandatory training for firearms users. As the minister knows, Canadians, both those in favour of stricter gun control and those who use guns themselves, wanted mandatory training for firearms users not only as a means of informing and helping those who are going to use firearms but of screening out those who would be inappropriate for a firearms acquisition certificate.

When does the minister feel that we can have this mandatory training program in place? She obviously has been meeting with the provinces. When can we expect to have that training program in place? It is very important and an integral part of gun control.

Hon. Kim Campbell (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, as I said, the implementation date of the mandatory training should be July 1, 1993.

The first mandate that I gave to the Canadian Advisory Council on Firearms was to bring forward a blueprint for implementing the training provisions which in fact have been in the Criminal Code since 1978 and never put into force. It developed a curriculum which I have circulated to the provincial attorneys general.

Just as provincial governments have the responsibility for administering the Criminal Code in terms of the trial process, they also have the responsibility of implementing the firearms regulations, supported financially by the Government of Canada. The provinces have taken this under advisement. We are working to implement it as soon as possible.

As I say, that is the last of the provisions that will be implemented. I want to say to the hon. member that of the regulations tabled today there are regulations that are part of that package. When those regulations come into force there will be no legal impediment to carrying out that commitment in the statute by all members of the House who supported Bill C-17.

As I say, I think that by July 1, 1993, just over a year from now, we should have the system up and running—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Ottawa South.

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TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport.

Ever since the report on the Dryden air crash came out last week, the Minister of Transport has been giving Canadians the same vague assurances about safety in the skies as his predecessors did.

We now know from government documents that officials in the federal aviation administration in the U.S. told this government in 1985 and I quote:

As you deregulate economically, it is vital that it be made abundantly clear to industry that safety regulation is going to be beefed up.

Why did the government fail to act on this clear advice? Why did it ignore the threat to safety that was posed by airline deregulation?

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I do not know what the hon. member is trying to lead the Canadian public into believing.

I can assure him that in its interim report the Royal Commission on National Passenger Transportation referred to the amendments that had been made to the Aeronautics Act and said: "The federal government has introduced in 1985 sweeping changes to the Aeronautics Act designed to give Canadian aviation its most progressive safety legislation in more than 60 years and to implement the major recommendations of the inquiry into aviation safety headed by Mr. Justice Charles Dubin".

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, we are trying to get this government to answer the very strong findings in the report by Mr. Justice Moshansky issued last week. So far there has not been a single response to the findings of the judge.

In a memorandum delivered to the Minister of Transport in December 1986 the minister's office was advised:

Because of the number of inspection personnel available, and limited financial resources, Transport Canada is seldom able to completely achieve the desired target.