

Oral Questions

• (1200)

[English]

TRANSPORT

SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO RAILWAY PASSENGER SERVICE—CONSULTATION WITH ONTARIO MINISTER ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. In light of the urgency of restoring rail passenger service to southwestern Ontario, and in light of the minister's statement recently in the House that prior to accepting the report made last year by the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications he would have to consult with the Minister of Transport and Communications of the province of Ontario, could the minister inform the House now whether such a date has been set for that meeting? If so, what is the date and, if not, would he be willing to set such a date within the next week?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I hope to meet with the Ontario minister and even the Prime Minister, Mr. Davis, before the end of March.

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. Now that the minister has undertaken to do this consulting would he agree to meet with the new chairman of the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, the hon. member for Crowfoot, so that for the benefit of the Committee the substantial knowledge of the hon. member can be maximized to its fullest?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Speaker, the very first thing I did in the House this morning was to send my congratulations to the new chairman.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We have just about two minutes left before the end of the question period. Would hon. members resume their seats. It will not help hon. members to stand while the Speaker is on his feet. The hon. member for Gander-Twillingate will be recognized for a brief supplementary because we are coming to the end of the question period.

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AIR TRANSPORT

TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM—REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE FACILITIES AT GANDER NOT TO BE RELOCATED

Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is very urgent. In view of the fact that plans were contemplated within the minister's department which, if implemented, could result in the long run in the dislocation of certain air traffic facilities, can the minister say whether he has investigated this matter and can he now assure the House that any such plans will be terminated?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Canadian air traffic control system is constantly under review to ensure that the highest degree of safety in

[Mr. La Salle.]

our skies is maintained. In so far as the air traffic control facilities at Gander are concerned, I am sure the hon. member will be pleased to hear that we have no plans to relocate the facilities.

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VETERANS AFFAIRS

INCREASE IN BASIC PENSION RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE—POSSIBILITY OF LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. Now that three weeks have passed since the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs made a report to the House recommending an increase in the basic pension along the lines of the report of the joint study group, can the minister tell the House whether there is hope that such a bill will be introduced at an early date?

Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the report of the joint study group was examined and the Veterans Affairs Committee has reported to the House. It is now being studied by the government. We expect a report in the not too distant future.

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LABOUR RELATIONS

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTOR'S STRIKE—ACTION BY ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE

Mr. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Now that the Ontario government has decided to recognize its responsibility in settling the elevator strike in the province, will the minister send a message of congratulations to Premier Davis for finally accepting his responsibility?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is more a representation than a question. Before calling orders of the day the Chair will recognize the hon. member for Carleton-Charlotte. I apologize to him; he had a supplementary previously and I failed to see him in his corner of the Chamber.

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FINANCE

EFFECT OF BUDGET PROPOSALS ON CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS—REQUEST FOR CHANGE

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Minister of Finance, I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. In light of the presentation made by national agricultural organizations on behalf of agricultural commodities which have been detrimentally affected by proposals in the budget, would the Prime Minister assure the House that he will give