

investment. Therefore, we have no intention at this time of changing our policy of devolution of airports, not a privatization of the airports.

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[Translation]

QUEBEC'S REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare, the new minister responsible for this new structure.

I would like to ask the minister why, after announcing there will no new money and no new programs, only a new structure, he is indulging in this kind of provocation, while he knows perfectly well that everybody in Quebec, and especially the people involved in regional development, wants Ottawa to withdraw from this area. Why this kind of provocation today?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I have always admired conversions, and I am sure Quebecers would have been delighted if this one had taken place 20 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I may remind the hon. member that this measure makes perfect sense. When I was given responsibility for the department, and I am referring to regional economic development in Quebec, obviously this responsibility does not come under the responsibilities of the Minister of Health. Considering the needs and priorities involved, we found it it was necessary to have a structure that would, for the time being, administer the same content and the same responsibilities and would make it possible for us to intervene effectively in regional development.

And I trust a member from Montreal will not contradict me on that score, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau—Saint-Michel): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister. At a time when there is talk of a new distribution of powers between Ottawa and the provinces, of eliminating duplication and all the administrative red tape that unfortunately exists now in the field of regional development, when all Quebec spokespersons at the Bélanger-Campeau Commission unanimously told Ottawa to get out of that field, I ask the minister why he

heavy-handedly involves the federal government in a field from which Quebecers want Ottawa to withdraw?

Hon. Benoît Bouchard (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I will not comment on the last parts of my colleague's question, because it would be very ironical and Quebecers would take it very badly. I will just say this: I would agree with my colleague if the recommendations of the Bélanger-Campeau Report or any approach to constitutional change applied tomorrow morning. But in fact, my colleague is asking, if an agreement for constitutional renewal is reached in two years, whether or not I will then be working as minister responsible for regional development to help Quebec develop its economy. No thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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[English]

MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT

Mr. Bill Casey (Cumberland—Colchester): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport.

Canada has always had a strict safety code that Canadian auto makers must meet. Recent changes to the Motor Vehicle Safety Act have given American cars exemptions from some of the codes and even special status. The same considerations were not given to the Canadian industry and will result in lost Canadian jobs and a double standard for safety.

Will the minister move immediately to correct this incredible situation that allows Americans to sell products in Canada that are against the law for the Canadian industry to sell by creating one standard for the entire industry.

Hon. Jean Corbeil (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any recent relaxation in the regulations, but my hon. colleague is asking a very pertinent technical question that I will be glad to take under consideration.

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IMMIGRATION

Mr. Tom Wappel (Scarborough West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Toronto production of the *Phantom of the Opera* required a new lead. Apparently the producers thought that no Canadian was qualified for the role, so they hired one Peter Karri. There was only one problem: he was not a Canadian citizen, nor a landed immigrant.