Inquiries of the Ministry

is not here, perhaps I can direct it to the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware of some rather serious charges that because of weight limitations affecting air transport between the port of Windsor and Pelee Island mail is delayed, with serious consequences where prescription drugs are concerned? Would the minister look into this matter?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I have plenty of problems with weight limitation, Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: —but I was not aware of this particular one. I shall take it under advisement and let the hon. member know.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PASSPORTS—REGULATIONS GOVERNING APPLICATIONS BY DIVORCED WOMEN

Mr. Steven E. Paproski (Edmonton-Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Prime Minister in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs. In light of correspondence between Marguerite J. Trussler and the hon. gentleman's department, may I ask whether it is the policy of the government that when applying for passports divorced women must use the names of their previous husbands? If so, is any action being considered to redress this blatant discrimination against women?

Mr. Speaker: I would think this question ought to be placed on the order paper. If there is urgency, it may be considered at the time of the adjournment.

AIR TRANSPORT

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USE BY ROYAL AIR FORCE OF UNITED STATES FACILI-TIES AT GOOSE BAY BECAUSE OF DETERIORATION OF DEPARTMENT RAMPS AND HANGARS

Mr. Ambrose Hubert Peddle (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): My question is for the Minister of Transport, Mr. Speaker. On November 4, I directed it to his parliamentary secretary, the minister being absent from the House. Is the hon. gentleman aware that the Royal Air Force, which up to now has been using Department of Transport facilities at Goose Bay, is now using United States air force facilities as a result of the deterioration of Department of Transport ramps and hangars? If so, what action is the minister prepared to take to ensure that this RAF activity is returned to the Canadian side? In other words, is he in a position to answer my question of November 4?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I was not advised personally of this question. I apologize for that. I would suspect that the explanation does not involve only the condition of the hangars. It may well involve a new arrangement between the RAF and the United States [Mr. Danforth.] Air Force. But I will undertake to get a full explanation for the hon. member.

Mr. Peddle: Did I understand the minister to say he was not advised of this very important question?

Mr. Jamieson: Yes, Mr. Speaker. It is my habit to be honest with the House on all occasions. This one slipped through somehow or other, and I was not personally advised of it.

HEALTH

FAMILY PLANNING CONFERENCE—REQUEST FOR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN BECAUSE OF INCREASE IN ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Mrs. Grace MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. In view of the welcome announcement that a national conference on family planning will be held in Ottawa next February, and in view of figures just issued by the minister's department which show a steady rise in the rate of illegitimate births in Canada from 5.3 per cent in 1963 to 9.2 per cent in 1969, will the government take the lead at this conference, financially and otherwise, in launching a campaign of public information to deal with this situation?

Mr. Speaker: I believe the hon. member's question is really in the form of a representation. If there is urgency about the matter it could be considered at the time of the adjournment. Would the hon. member like to rephrase it?

Mrs. MacInnis: May I ask a supplementary question? Can the minister tell us what organizations will be invited to take part in this conference?

Hon. John C. Munro (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Just about every organization of a voluntary nature in the private area we are aware of that has shown an interest in this subject matter in the past.

POLLUTION

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POSSIBLE DANGER RESULTING FROM CONSTRUCTION OF REFINERY AT EASTPORT, MAINE.

Hon. Hugh John Flemming (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Has the minister received any report regarding the possible construction of an oil refinery at Eastport on the Bay of Fundy in the State of Maine, and the need for exercising extreme care in the transport of oil to that refinery in the event of its construction?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of the Environment): We are investigating this matter, Mr. Speaker.