

the expansion of Mount Hope airport for health reasons and in view of the fact that the council has no assurance that if they do seek a moratorium the funds will still be available for expansion, will the minister inform the Hamilton city council in writing how long the funds for expansion of this municipal airport will be available?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it might take rather a long time to give here all the details of what is known as the revolving fund of airports. In any case, we are now reviewing the whole situation at the Hamilton airport, and we will certainly be able to get in touch soon with the city council.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would recognize the hon. member on a supplementary, then perhaps we might have time for two last questions by the hon. member for Battle River and the hon. member for Kingston and the Islands. The hon. member for Hamilton West.

MOUNT HOPE—POSSIBLE CONSULTATION WITH CIVIC OFFICIALS AND CITIZENS ON EXPANSION

Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West): A short supplementary, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, there has been a statement made by the Minister of Labour that he is seeking citizenship participation by holding a meeting in Hamilton to deal with this entire matter. Can the minister advise whether, in fact, the data has been sought? Has there been consultation with the officials of the city of Hamilton, as well as others, as to a suitable date and, if so, what is that date?

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I might ask what meetings took place. I asked the department to see all the persons concerned and also to look into some new proposals which had been made, so as to satisfy the entire population of Hamilton.

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[English]

TRANSPORT

AUTOMOBILE SAFETY—RUPTURE OF GASOLINE TANKS ON VEHICLES INVOLVED IN ACCIDENTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Harry Kuntz (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that there is an ever-increasing number of deaths by fire when the gasoline tank ruptures on a motor vehicle involved in an accident, resulting in the surrounding area being sprayed with gasoline, will the minister tell this House whether his department has any intention of investigating this very serious problem to determine if these gasoline tanks are being manufactured to a sufficient strength to lessen the possibility of them rupturing in an accident?

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I know my department has been working hard in

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the field of safety as far as cars are concerned. From memory, I have no indication that they worked particularly on this aspect of security. I will inquire. I may profit by the occasion to say that since the department undertook this responsibility four years ago, the number of accidents in Canada in relative terms has declined quite sharply.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

GRASSY NARROWS AND WHITE DOG RESERVES—MERCURY CONTAMINATION OF FISH—RESULTS OF FEDERAL TESTS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Since the minister indicated to the House on May 10 that a team of doctors from his department had carried out tests on the effects of mercury contamination on fish food sources for the Indians of the Grassy Narrows and White Dog reserves, and in light of the fact that 60 of these native people have been informed by provincial agencies that they have an excess of mercury in their system, can the minister tell the House if the result of the federal tests have shown a high incidence of mercury contamination? If so, what steps are planned to deal with this serious matter affecting the health of our native people?

[Translation]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the federal team has been working jointly and in very close co-operation with the Ontario government team, and I have no reason to believe that the figures quoted by the members of the Ontario team are different from those that may have been compiled by the federal team.

As to the action required, it is a responsibility that the Ontario government has assumed for some time, and it is up to the provincial government to make sure that food and other necessities are available to the people on this reserve.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Orders of the day. There are a number of hon. members still seeking an opportunity to ask questions. The hon. member will be given priority tomorrow to pursue the matter, but we have gone four or five minutes beyond the question period. Perhaps we should call orders of the day now.

The hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton rises on a question of privilege.

Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out that for six days I have risen, and on more than four occasions have caught your eye. I noticed you have known I have been rising, but I have not been granted the privilege of asking a question which is of some urgency. I request that tomorrow I might be given some consideration. I have only asked five previous ques-