

view, also, of Alberta's lack of interest in operations outside that province, may I ask the right hon. gentleman whether the government still supports the Petro-Canada proposal and will so indicate to FIRA?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, Petro-Canada is a Crown corporation which is operating at arm's length from the government, and the role of the government thus far has been to change the speed of cash flow in order that Petro-Canada could make the offer it did. Petro-Canada is operating in the marketplace and I am happy to learn that the premier of Saskatchewan has supported its action.

Mr. Orlikow: Would the Prime Minister tell us whether the cabinet has approved the capital budget of Petro-Canada in an amount sufficient to acquire Husky Oil and, if so, can he tell us why the government is not expressing in more direct terms its approval of the principle that the heavy oil resources of Saskatchewan should be developed by Canadian rather than United States interests?

Mr. Trudeau: It was made quite clear by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and by myself the other day in replying to a question from the leader of the New Democratic Party that we wanted Canadian resources to be exploited by companies which were 50 per cent to 60 per cent owned by Canadians. That is still our policy. As for the first part of the question, arrangements were made to permit Petro-Canada to get into the market and make this bid.

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AIR TRANSPORT

CRASH AT ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. It concerns the tragic crash on Friday in St. John's, Newfoundland, of a chartered aircraft resulting in the death of ten people including the chairman of the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board, three members and two senior employees of the board. I know all hon. members will identify with me in extending sympathy to the families of these public service people. Can the minister tell us whether there is an investigation under way and whether the Minister of Transport has been able to determine the cause of this crash?

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): Certainly, we all join in expressing sympathy to those who were bereaved as a result of this crash, including the families of the pilot and co-pilot of the aircraft. An investigation team arrived on the site the same afternoon, I am informed, and an investigation is going forward. It would be premature for me to attempt to say anything further.

Oral Questions

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

EVIDENCE BEFORE McDONALD COMMISSION

Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is intended for either the Minister of Employment and Immigration or the Solicitor General. What representations, if any, have been made to date to expedite the return to Canada of Warren Hart to testify before the McDonald royal commission further to the meeting which took place in Washington between Mr. Hart and his counsel and the chief counsel and an investigator from the commission? I should like to know when his return is likely so that we can get to the bottom of matters directed by the RCMP involving this former FBI agent.

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Solicitor General): Mr. Speaker, I have received no representations from the inquiry for the return or presence of Mr. Hart to appear before the commission.

Mr. MacKay: A brief supplementary question concerning the royal commission. Could one of the ministers—I suppose it should be the Solicitor General—tell me whether, when ministers and deputy ministers are testifying before the McDonald commission, they will be cross-examined by the same counsel who are seized of specific areas in the inquiry such as National Revenue, the Post Office, and so forth, in order to ensure that various counsel will have an opportunity to cross-examine on the various aspects implicit in ministerial responsibility?

● (1442)

Mr. Blais: Mr. Speaker, I will inquire and advise the hon. gentleman.

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IMMIGRATION

ALIENS SMUGGLED INTO U.S. FROM CANADA

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. It concerns the derailing of an underground railway which operates between Toronto, Montreal and the United States. Illegal aliens were smuggled into the United States from Canada. How long did the minister know about this operation, how many Canadians were involved, and how many illegal aliens have been taken to the United States by the principals involved in this operation?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I do not have all the facts. I know that seven of the nine adults arrested have been deported from Canada. I believe that was the total number of the group in this particular investigation.

Mr. Epp: On April 18, and again on April 25, I pointed out to the minister that his own officials in Toronto had documented 100 cases of marriages of convenience and that departmental documents indicated that this was but the tip of the