

Inquiries of the Ministry

[Translation]

AIRPORTSMONTREAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—
AGREEMENT WITH QUEBEC
GOVERNMENT

Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

In view of the excellent decision taken by the government about the site of the new airport and since this choice seems to me to respect the interests of Quebec, could the minister tell us if it was immediately accepted by that province? I dare hope so?

[English]

SHIPBUILDINGTERMS OF REFERENCE OF COMMITTEE OF
INQUIRY

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Since he seems to be an authority on shipping today, may I ask him if a committee consisting of representatives of the shipbuilding industry and members of the government has been set up to look into shipbuilding in Canada?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, after a visit by a group from the industry we were supposed to get a committee going. Two attempts were made to bring the other side along with us in forming this committee. This has been done now.

Mr. MacEwan: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Have the terms of reference of that committee been agreed on?

Mr. Pepin: Mr. Speaker, it should be a rapid study if it is to advise on what might be done at this time.

HOUSINGTASK FORCE—REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT
OF POLICY

Mr. Andrew Brewin (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transport. Since early February the minister has been announcing that he will be placing recommendations emanating from the task force on housing before his cabinet colleagues and has repeatedly said that there will be an announcement of government policy in this field soon. Will he tell the house how soon is soon? Will we have an announcement before the Easter recess?

[Mr. MacInnis.]

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that question has already been asked and answered in the house. My hon. friend will have to show some patience. As he knows was the case with the Montreal international airport, Rome was not built in one day. It takes time to work out the details. As soon as a decision has been taken an announcement will be made.

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

STATUS OF ARCTIC ISLANDS

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina-Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister arising from an answer he gave some time ago to the right hon. member for Prince Albert and from another answer he gave today to the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. I think the matter ought to be cleared up. The Prime Minister told the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre that there was no question about Canada's sovereignty in the north. May I ask whether that includes all the northern Arctic islands? Also, was the Prime Minister considering inland seas and 12-mile limits when he made his statement?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the answer I gave a few weeks ago, which I repeat today, is that our sovereignty over all Arctic islands is not challenged in any way. I do not think the question of sovereignty has been disputed. I said before that the question of the status of the seas was not established in a way which entailed the recognition of the international community. This matter still has to be dealt with and will be the object of a policy statement by the government.

Mr. Benjamin: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Did the Prime Minister impart this opinion to the President of the United States recently, or did he discuss these points when he saw him earlier this week?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I communicated to the President the fact that the question of territorial seas and especially of fishing rights was of grave concern to us and we hoped to take a position on it soon which will be respected by all the international community.

CONSUMER AFFAIRSLUMBER—ACTION TO CONTROL INCREASE IN
PRICES

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of