

the government of Canada propose to participate in the taking of some decisions? In other words, is it the policy of the minister simply to let nature take its course in the hope that somehow the thing will work out, or has he a policy?

Mr. Sharp: We have had a number of discussions recently with the body that has been co-ordinating this problem, namely, the World Bank. It is an extremely difficult problem, and if the hon. member knows of any simple solution to it I would be very happy to hear it. No one else in the world seems to have an easy solution. We are all doing our best to meet two problems, that of the refugees in India and also the condition of Pakistan itself and the conflicts that now separate the two parts. This is one of the most serious international issues the world has been faced with; we are doing our best in an attempt to arrive at reasonable solutions, and that is the best we can do.

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AIR CANADA

SERVICE FROM EASTERN CANADA TO SASKATOON—
REPLACEMENT BY ANOTHER CARRIER

Mr. A. C. Cadieu (Meadow Lake): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transport. In view of the fact that Air Canada is downgrading service from eastern Canada to Saskatoon, does the minister intend to take immediate steps to provide adequate service by another airline?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would need to know the specific routes in question to see whether they in effect come within what might be described as the regional air policy, but the objective is to get better air service for all parts of the country.

Mr. Cadieu: Does the Minister of Transport intend to introduce regulations to prohibit the Prime Minister and other politicians from flying planes that have captive passengers aboard.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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THE CENSUS

METHOD OF SENDING RETURNS TO BUREAU OF
STATISTICS

Mr. W. M. Howe (Wellington-Grey-Dufferin-Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It has to do with a question raised as a question of privilege by the hon. member for Churchill last week. In connection with the census which begins on June 1 can he explain to the House and to the people of Canada why all Canadians will not be allowed to send their returns directly to the department as will be done in cities?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I have a note from DBS which says that either the mail-back or pick-up system by

Inquiries of the Ministry

census representatives assures confidentiality, but the pick-up system is employed in localities where, for instance, the mail service is insufficient or telephone lines are shared, proving unsatisfactory for telephone follow-up when difficulties are experienced when completing the questionnaire before mailing it back. So the system is justified by very practical considerations and there is no discrimination here against any group in the process.

Mr. Howe: When these rules and regulations were drawn up did the minister have a discussion with his colleague in the next seat, the Postmaster General.

Mr. Speaker: Order please.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

POSSIBLE MILITARY THREAT FROM UNITED STATES

Mr. Donald MacInnis (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Prime Minister. I would ask the Acting Prime Minister if he foresees any military threat from the United States?

Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Acting Prime Minister): No, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the hon. gentleman would enlighten me.

Mr. MacInnis: Gladly, Mr. Speaker, and I must do it on a point of order in order to keep myself in order. I would suggest that the Acting Prime Minister keep up with the statement made by the Prime Minister while visiting Russia when he lumped together the cultural threat, the economic threat and the military threat from the United States.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

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POLLUTION

ARSENIC—TESTING OF WATERWAYS—PERMISSIBLE
LEVEL IN FOOD AND EFFLUENT

Mr. Randolph Harding (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. In view of recent reports that research in the United States on arsenic indicates it could be a highly dangerous pollutant if allowed to escape into lakes and rivers, could the minister indicate whether any department of government has undertaken any testing of our waterways for possible arsenic pollution and its effect on fish?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, some research work has been undertaken and the program is being stepped up.

Mr. Harding: Has the government set a schedule of permissible levels of arsenic in food for human consumption and have arsenic content standards been set for any effluent discharged into any of our waterways?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I would certainly think so but I will make inquiries from the Department of National Health and Welfare.