

Oral Questions

On April 29, 1977, the CRTC rendered a decision allowing the purchase by the CBC of Station CJBR-TV in Rimouski. As this decision fully meets the wishes of the people of Gaspé and northwestern New Brunswick, and was endorsed publicly by the hon. members for Bonaventure-Iles-de-la-Madeleine, Gaspé and Madawaska-Victoria, would the minister be in a position to tell the House why the allotment of the credits which are necessary for the concretization of this important project seem to be delayed?

[English]

Hon. John Roberts (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, there have been representations on this matter from both sides of the House on both sides of the question. There seems to be a great deal of controversy about whether this should or should not be proceeded with. There is also of course the question of the government's concern about financial restraint and as a result the matter is still under consideration. I am not sure when we will come to a decision about it.

* * *

AIR TRANSPORT**REQUEST FOR REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Acting Minister of Transport. Could the minister tell the House whether the government is monitoring the very, very critical stages of negotiations between the United States and Great Britain with respect to the possible suspension of air services between those two countries and if so could he bring us up-to-date on where they stand, particularly in light of the fact that should negotiations break down and air services be suspended, there could be a need to use Canadian airports to facilitate movement by air between those two countries?

● (1450)

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Roy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the hon. member that the Department of Transport is following very closely the representations mentioned by the hon. member and that we will provide for special measures to this effect if necessary.

[English]

CONTINGENCY PLANS IF TRAVELLERS FROM UNITED KINGDOM TO UNITED STATES DIVERTED TO CANADA

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the impact which the daily diversion of between 2,000 and 3,000 passengers bound from the United Kingdom to the United States will have on the Canadian air system, is the government considering allowing pre-customs clearance at Halifax on a contingency basis? Also, is the government considering easing, at Mira-

[Mr. Allard.]

bel and not just Dorval, restrictions on travel between Canada and the United States and, because Malton will be precluded from use, easing such restrictions at airports such as Halifax?

[Translation]

Mr. Marcel Roy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the hon. member that I shall convey his representations to the minister. Furthermore, I thank him for his suggestions.

* * *

[English]

IMMIGRATION**REQUEST FOR MINISTER'S PERMIT FOR THE RAE FAMILY**

Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher): Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Manpower and Immigration concerns the Ronal Rae case, about which I have given him notice. Since the Raes entered Canada some ten days after the amnesty program came into force, Mr. Rae having been accepted for entry as a landed immigrant shortly after World War II—and I know the minister has received many representations on the Rae case—would the minister now consider granting a minister's permit to the Rae family on humanitarian grounds, especially since 21,000 such landings were granted in 1975?

Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think that would be a rather loose use of a ministerial permit. It would not be allowed on that particular basis alone. Mr. Rae is a British citizen who claims originally that he applied to come to Canada in 1947. He lived in Brazil until 1971. He claimed that he always intended to come to Canada but was unavoidably detained for 23 years.

Mr. McKenzie: Don't try to be funny.

Mr. Cullen: I am just giving you the facts, Danny baby. A special inquiry was held and he was ordered deported on April 10 of 1975, almost three years ago, on grounds that he had violated his non-immigrant status. He appealed to the Immigration Appeal Board, the federal court and the supreme court, and all his appeals were dismissed. The supreme court decision was handed down as recently as May 18, 1977. Our Winnipeg office is presently determining the appropriate date for the family's departure from Canada.

Mr. Epp: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Am I to understand from the minister's answer that, despite the representations of responsible people in the Manitoba community, he does not intend to intervene?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.