

● (1137)

[Translation]

AIRPORTS**INQUIRY WHEN ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH FACILITIES**

Mr. Albert Béchard (Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport.

Is he in a position to inform the House and particularly the impatient people of Îles-de-la-Madeleine whether he has received a report from his department's officials responsible for the study concerning the construction of an airport at Îles-de-la-Madeleine? In the affirmative, what are the findings of this report and when can we hope to see the achievement of this needed project which is long overdue and is essential to the economy of this region situated in my riding?

[English]

Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Transport): I have received an interim report on the nature of the work being done and on the good meeting which was held in the area. However, I do not yet have a final report and recommendations. I will certainly keep pressing for them and I will make sure that the hon. member is informed as soon as they are available.

* * *

SOCIAL SECURITY**REQUEST FOR ASSURANCE NO CURTAILMENT OF BENEFITS FROM PROGRAMS**

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, may I direct a question to the Prime Minister? Is the Prime Minister in a position to confirm the statement made by the Minister of National Health and Welfare to the effect that the Minister of Public Works was not expressing government policy when he called for certain curtailments with respect to family allowances and old age security benefits?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): I have not seen such a statement by the Minister of Public Works. The Minister of National Health and Welfare does not seem to have seen it, either. I would want to see what that statement was before stating whether it represents government policy or not.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): In view of the fact that most of us know what the Minister of Public Works said, may I ask the Prime Minister whether he can assure the people of this country that families with only one child will not have their family allowances discontinued and that other curtailments will not be placed on family allowances or on old age security benefits? In other words, does the government stand committed to the principles of these two pieces of legislation as enacted by parliament?

Oral Questions

Mr. Trudeau: As enacted by parliament and presented by Liberal governments in the past.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: It is certain that we stand committed to the principles of this legislation. We have in the past and we shall in the future continue to consider ways in which legislation in all areas can be improved, and if there is any way in which we can curtail expenditures and have a better system while abiding by the principles we shall, of course, consider it.

* * *

INCOME TAX ACT**ALLEGED CONTRAVENTION OF SECRECY PROVISIONS—REQUEST FOR STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): My question is to the Minister of National Revenue. Does the minister agree that the secrecy of the agreement between the Department of National Revenue and the RCMP, kept as it was from the knowledge of the chief law enforcement officer of the Province of Alberta, would, in all logic, have precluded the attorney general of Alberta from making inquiries as to its existence?

Hon. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Minister of National Revenue): I can only repeat that my department acted legally and if there is any particular question which the hon. member wishes to raise I would refer him to the Department of Justice.

Mr. Malone: In view of the fact that the attorney general of Alberta does not subscribe to the position which has just been enunciated, will the minister be making a statement on motions outlining his own particular initiatives to improve the efficiency as to the very important department at the present time, causing the Canadian people so much apprehension in their modus operandi?

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Somebody was criticizing me a while ago for reading an answer, but I can see the hon. member cannot even ask his question properly even though he is reading it.

Some hon. Members: Oh!

* * *

INDUSTRY**CLOSING OF FLUORSPAR MINE AT ST. LAWRENCE, NEWFOUNDLAND—GOVERNMENT ACTION**

Mr. John Crosbie (St. John's West): A question for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister yesterday announced a job creation program involving \$150 million but 400 jobs are to be lost at the fluorspar mine at St. Lawrence. Will the minister advise us why he and his predecessor had failed, up to several days ago, to answer letters of July and October 11 from the government